



Dr. Robert L. Flood O.D.P.C.

Dr. Flood's Vision Center

Don't Wait! Make your Appointment Now!

Use your Flex Spending Accounts before the end of the year.

2603 Niles Ave • St Joseph • 269-408-8762

www.govision.com

No-Line Progressive and Frames \$99 with an Eye Exam • Select Frames only • * some restrictions may apply

Dave Barry's Year in Review

Focus, D1



Report: Harbaugh expected to take U-M job

Sports, C1

'I feel passionate about (Kwanzaa) because it's my community.' ... I want my community to be the best it can be.

EMMA HULL, former Benton Harbor mayor



Former Benton Harbor Mayor Emma Hull prepares to host her 14th Kwanzaa celebration starting tonight and running through Wednesday at the Virginia Edwards Community Center, 721 Nate Wells Sr. Drive, Benton Harbor.

The queen of nice

Former mayor Emma Hull, hosting her 14th Kwanzaa, says she works to bring positive change to Benton Harbor

By LOUISE WREGE
HP Staff Writer

BENTON HARBOR — Giving back to the community she lives in is the main reason Emma Hull of Benton Harbor is hosting her 14th annual Kwanzaa celebration in Benton Harbor, starting tonight.

"When I live in my commu-

nity and work here, I want what's best for the people that I touch every day," she said. "I want us to be able to take care of our families and our community and be responsible, so when I heard about Kwanzaa and started really studying it and thought about the principles that we live by, I wanted other people to understand."

Seven principles

The seven Kwanzaa principles include unity, self-determination, purpose, creativity, faith, cooperative economics and collective work and responsibility.

"I wanted other people to live by the principles to make a

difference for themselves and, as you make a difference for yourself in the community, it will spread out to others," she said. "That's why I feel passionate about it because it's my community. ... It's where I raised my children. It's where I have my grandchildren. It's where I live, work, shop, play. I want my community to be the best it can be."

Hull and her late husband raised five children in Benton Harbor. She now has 11 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

The celebration, which is free and open to the public, will be from 5-8:30 p.m. tonight through Wednesday at the Vir-

ginia Edwards Community Center, 721 Nate Wells Sr. Drive, Benton Harbor. Each night will feature two of the Kwanzaa principles, along with food and fun. A feast will help wrap up the celebration on the final night.

Embracing culture

"We want to embrace our culture of who we are as a people and where we've come from and whose shoulders we have stood on to get us to where we are," Hull said.

She added that many of the funds to pay for the celebration

See EMMA HULL, page A4

N. Korea uses racial slur against Obama

By HYUNG-JIN KIM
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea blamed its recent Internet outage on the United States on Saturday and hurled racially charged insults at President Barack Obama over the hacking row involving the movie "The Interview."

North Korea's powerful National Defense Commission, which is headed by country leader Kim Jong Un and is the nation's top governing body, said Obama was behind the release of the comedy that depicts Kim's assassination. The commission described the movie as illegal, dishonest and reactionary.

"Obama always goes reckless in words and deeds like a monkey in a tropical forest," an unidentified



This AP photo combination shows U.S. President Barack Obama, left, and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. North Korea has compared Obama to a monkey and blamed the U.S. for shutting down its Internet.

See SLUR, page A4

Death penalty states unmoved by botched execution

By SEAN MURPHY
Associated Press

McALESTER, Okla. — Oklahoma's last execution went so badly that the state tried to cancel it before it was over. With the inmate writhing while the lethal drugs seeped into his body, his executioners drew the viewing gallery curtains, concealing what the warden later described as "a bloody mess."

The botched execution of Clayton Lockett in April and other troubling ones this year in Ohio and Arizona gave capital punishment opponents a flicker of hope that areas of the country that most enthusiastically support the death penalty might have a change of heart. They didn't.

Although Gov. Mary Fallin suspended further executions so that Lockett's death and Oklahoma's methods could be reviewed, the state held what amounted to a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its overhauled death chamber only months later and is scheduled to resume killing inmates in mid-January. And rather than causing states to question whether capital punishment is just or worth the risk of subjecting someone to a potentially agonizing death, the prolonged executions and problems states have had securing lethal injection drugs have led them to explore new, old and more efficient ways of killing, including gassing inmates.

"I think we had a little flash of hope that it would help our cause, but all it did was generate a lot of conversation about it," said Lydia Polley, a longtime member of the Oklahoma Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. "It just led to people thinking of better ways to kill them."

Lockett's execution did little or nothing to dampen support for the death penalty in deeply conservative Oklahoma, which has killed more inmates than any other state except Texas since the 1976 reinstatement of the death penalty. In October, officials gave media tours of the renovated execution unit at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary, which got a \$104,000 overhaul after Lockett's death and now stands in sharp contrast to the rest of the shabby, 106-year-old facility.

Not content with just the upgrades to the prison and lethal injection equipment, though, Oklahoma's Republican-led House conducted a study on the use of nitrogen gas to execute inmates and is expected to consider legislation early next year that would make Oklahoma the first state to adopt hypoxia by gas — the

See EXECUTION, page A1

USA Weekend ends

The publishers of USA Weekend, the insert that appears in the Sunday Herald-Palladium, have decided to end publication of the magazine. The final issue of USA Weekend is included in today's paper.

Coming
this
week in
The Herald-Palladium

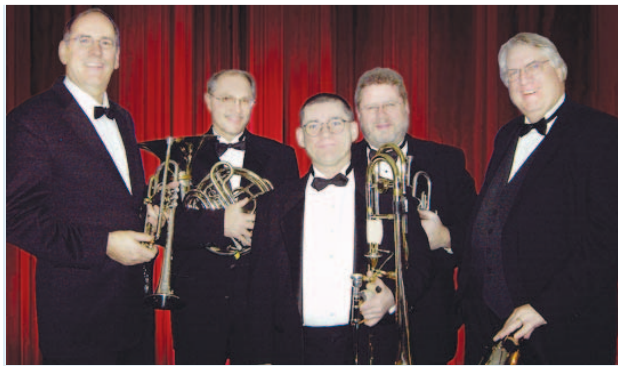
Monday

South Bend television reporter Denise Bohn Stewart of St. Joseph discusses her upcoming switch back to radio and life as a cancer survivor. In **Q&A**.



Wednesday

A champion will be determined in the Bridgman's girls basketball tournament on Tuesday. In **SPORTS**.



Thursday

North American Brass Company returns to the Box Factory for the Arts. In **ENTERTAINMENT**.

LOTTERIES

Saturday drawings

Michigan
Classic Lotto 47
11-14-20-27-42-47
Poker Lotto
QS-2D-3D-8H-8S
Midday Daily 3
6-7-5
Midday Daily 4
7-1-0-5
Daily 3
9-6-9
Daily 4
3-4-5-5
Fantasy 5
07-08-19-25-32
Keno
02-05-13-15-17-18-22-27-29-33-36-38-40-44-49-52-59-63-69-76-77-79
Mega Millions jackpot
\$172 million
Powerball lotto
07-10-11-14-36

Powerball

15

Indiana
Quick Draw Midday
16-19-21-24-29-31-43-46-47-50-51-52-53-59-60-65-66-68-77-80
Daily Three-Midday
5-8-4
Daily Four-Midday
6-4-6-0
Illinois
Hit or Miss Drive
01-02-04-06-09-10-11-14-15-17-21-22, GLN : 5
Hit or Miss Evening
02-05-06-09-13-14-16-18-19-21-22-24, GLN : 4
Hit or Miss Midday
02-04-05-08-09-10-12-13-19-21-22-24, GLN : 2
Hit or Miss Morning
01-02-03-06-09-10-11-14-15-19-21-24, GLN : 5
Lotto
06-16-19-25-31-42,
Extra Shot: 23
Lucky Day Lotto Midday

04-10-21-22-44
Pick Three-Midday
7-2-3, Fireball: 6
Pick Three-Evening
4-2-1, Fireball: 2
(Pick Four-Midday
2-3-5-5, Fireball: 4
Pick Four-Evening
4-7-3-1, Fireball: 3
Lucky Day Lotto
13-22-23-27-38

Friday evening drawings

Indiana
Cash 5
08-26-32-37-40
Millionaires Club
16-17-25-31-51, Bonus: 22
Poker Lotto
AC-QC-2D-2D-8D
Illinois
Lucky Day Lotto
02-06-09-19-22

— The Associated Press

Contact us

To contact the Newsroom, send an email to one of the addresses listed below, call one of the direct lines listed below, or call our main office at 429-2400 and ask for one of the extensions listed below.

News tip Ext. 293 localnews@TheHP.com	Features Ext. 225 focus@TheHP.com	Letters to the Editor Ext. 211 letters@TheHP.com
Sports Ext. 294, or 429-1294 sports@TheHP.com	Obituaries Ext. 295, or 429-2295 obits@TheHP.com	Photo Ext. 204 photos@TheHP.com

To order reprints of staff photos or high-quality reproductions of full pages, visit www.TheHP.com and click on the Photo Gallery and Reprints link.

The Herald-Palladium

P.O. Box 128 • 3450 Hollywood Road • St. Joseph, MI 49085
Volume 129, Number 362

For delivery and subscription information, call 269-429-1396.

7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays-Fridays.
7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

If your paper is missed, please call in before 11 a.m. Mondays-Fridays and before noon on weekends. Current-day replacement delivery is limited to the communities of Benton Harbor, St. Joseph and Stevensville.

To place a classified ad, call 269-429-4484.
8 a.m.-4 p.m. Mondays-Fridays.

To reach any other department, call our main switchboard at 269-429-2400.

Main switchboard hours are 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1:30-4 p.m. Mondays-Fridays.

Cash payments and checks are accepted during general business hours of 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Mondays-Fridays. The Circulation and Classified departments can accept credit card payments via telephone during their normal hours.

Our building is open to the public 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1:30-4 p.m. Mondays-Fridays.

MAIN FAX 429-7661
NEWSROOM FAX 429-4398
CLASSIFIED ADV. FAX 429-8344

Home delivery rates:
Carrier/motor serv. \$25.00/4 wks
Mail delivery \$50.00/4 wks



The Herald-Palladium is printed for your convenience with low-ruboff soy ink and with newsprint containing recycled paper.

David Holgate Publisher
Dave Brown Managing Editor
Stacey Ramsey Advertising Director
Barry Whitman Circulation Director
Robert Estes Business Manager

The Herald-Palladium is published daily, Mondays through Sundays, at 3450 Hollywood Road, St. Joseph, MI and is a consolidation of The Herald-Press and The News-Palladium. Periodicals Mail postage paid at St. Joseph, MI (USPS 387-440). Postmaster: Send change of address to P.O. Box 128, St. Joseph, MI 49085. Member of The Associated Press and The Audit Bureau of Circulations.

FEEDING A GIRAFFE



Attila Balazs / MTI / AP

A two-month old giraffe calf, yet unnamed, is bottle-fed by keeper Laszlo Kovacs in the Nyiregyhaza Animal Park in Nyiregyhaza, 245 kms east of Budapest, Hungar, Saturday. It happens sometimes that females having their first calves born are unable to breast-feed their offsprings, then keepers bottle-feed the babies till their age of six months.

NATION

Officer, suspect killed in shootout

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — A 24-year-old police officer and a suspect died after a shootout Saturday afternoon.

Officer Tyler Stewart, 24, died at Flagstaff Medical Center after he was shot by a man involved in a domestic-violence case, police said. Stewart became the second Flagstaff police officer ever to be killed in the line of duty.

On June 21, 2000, Officer Jeff Moritz, 30, was killed after he pulled over a teenager as the teen drove around his neighborhood in a truck playing loud rap music.

Stewart was looking for the man — identified as Robert W. Smith, 28, of Prescott — about 1:30 p.m.

in the 800 block of West Clay Avenue when Smith fired several shots at the officer, police said. Smith then shot himself and was pronounced dead at the scene, police added.

Stewart was taken to Flagstaff Medical Center in critical condition and later died, police said.

Islamic center vandalized

FRESNO, Calif. (AP) — A 28-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of vandalizing the Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno on Christmas day, causing investigators at first to suspect a hate crime, police said Saturday.

But relatives of the 28-year-old suspect, Asif Mohammad Khan, came public to say that schizo-

phrenia — and not hatred — led to the unfortunate incident. “It is a case of mental illness,” said his sister, Samia Khan. “There’s no question about that.”

Asif Mohammad Khan has been booked into jail on charges including felony vandalism for more than \$10,000 in damage done Thursday to the Islamic Cultural Center and a nearby medical office.

In the search for a suspect, Fresno Police Chief Jerry Dyer had said that the broken windows and bleach poured on an American flag inside the Islamic center appeared to be a hate crime. On Saturday, Dyer said that investigators interviewed Khan, and their theory has changed. “It was obviously not as we thought,” said Dyer, adding that police

MICHIGAN

Neighbors search for alleged rapist

HIGHLAND PARK, Mich. (AP) — Family members, neighbors and community activists have banded together to find a man suspected of raping an 11-year-old girl on her way to school near Detroit.

WXYZ-TV and WWJ-AM report that people passed out fliers to shoppers and merchants Friday in the enclave of Highland Park. They seek information leading to the arrest of a man that police say abducted and raped the girl Dec. 10 in a vacant home.

The girl’s grandmother, Constance Posey-Smith, says the man should know that “we’re going to be out here day and night, and you’re going to be caught.”

will let FBI agents decide whether hate-crime charges are warranted.

Khan confessed, telling officers he was upset with people at the Islamic center for talking down or bullying him, Dyer said.

Samia Khan said doctors in 2009 diagnosed her brother as schizophrenic, and in the days before the incidents he had not taken his medication.

Khan said she joined Fresno police at a news conference to explain her brother’s illness. She said her family is part of Fresno’s close-knit Muslim community and apologized for her brother.

“We hope you can find it in your hearts to forgive his mistake,” the letter said. “Understand the health issue has brought us here today.”

WORLD

Plane with 162 aboard missing in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — An AirAsia plane with 162 people aboard lost contact with ground control on Sunday after takeoff from Indonesia on the way to Singapore, and the airline said search and rescue operations were underway.

The plane lost communication with Indonesia’s Surabaya airport 42 minutes after takeoff at 5:35 a.m., Hadi Mustofa, an official of the transportation ministry told Indonesia’s MetroTV.

AirAsia said in a statement that the plane was an Airbus A320-200 and that search and rescue operations were in progress.

Mustofa said the plane had seven crew and 155 passengers.

He said the plane lost contact when it was believed to be over the Java Sea between Kalimantan and Java islands.

2 arrested in mall shooting released

OTTAWA (AP) — Two people arrested in connection with a Boxing Day shooting at a shopping mall in Ottawa have been released without being charged.

Police said Saturday they are still looking for two suspects after a man was wounded in the foot on a pedestrian walkway at the Tanger Outlets mall on Friday.

The shooting occurred on Boxing Day, one of Canada’s busiest shopping days of the year. The shooting sent frightened shoppers and employees ducking for cover.

Duty Inspector Mark Patterson said the victim was known to police and was not co-operating with investigators.

The mall re-opened Saturday after management closed it Friday to give store employees a chance to re-

cover from the incident.

Police say witnesses are being interviewed and investigators will be going through surveillance footage.

John Paul II gunman lays flowers at tomb

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The Turkish gunman who shot and wounded

John Paul II in 1981 laid white flowers Saturday on the saint’s tomb in St. Peter’s Basilica, Vatican officials said.

The surprise visit by Mehmet Ali Agca, believed to be his first time in the Vatican since the assassination attempt, lasted a few minutes, a Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Ciro Benedettini, said.

Holiday Sale!
December 14 - January 11



lamson health club
renew yourself
Women’s health club on the campus of Andrews University

10% off
2 semester memberships &
3 semester memberships

10% off
massages

Membership includes use of exercise equipment, jacuzzi, sauna, and a variety of aerobics classes!

Call us at 269-471-3449 for info and holiday hours.



637-1304



***Phone Repair**
*** iPhone & iPad screen replacement**
*** Prepaid Phones & Minutes**

John’s Stereo
637-1994



***Computer Repair**
*** Fast Turn Around**
*** Virus Removal and Protection**
*** Computer Networking**
*** Hardware Upgrades**

08859 M-140 Hwy South Haven, MI
www.johnsstereo.com

H2O Grow Supply
HOME OF BABY EAGLE BRAND SOIL



30% OFF
ADVANCED NUTRIENTS
ALL DAY EVERY DAY



Supply

Dirty Tuesday-Soil
\$1.00 Off 2 Bags
or More
25% Off Dry Ammendents

VegaMatrix Specialists

H2O Grow Supply
www.h2ogrowsupply.com
3664 ARENT CT. COLOMA, MI 49038
Tues-Fri 10-5 and Sat 10-3
PH. 269-468-3890

Yes-We-Can president faces twilight of maybes

By JULIE PACE
and NANCY BENAC
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It was supposed to be a joke. “Are you still president?” comedian Stephen Colbert asked Barack Obama earlier this month.

But the question seemed to speak to growing weariness with the president and skepticism that anything will change in Washington during his final two years in office. Democrats already are checking out Obama’s potential successors. Emboldened Republicans are trying to push aside his agenda in favor of their own.

At times this year, Obama seemed ready to move on as well. He rebelled against the White House security “bubble,” telling his Secret Service detail to give him more space. He chafed at being sidelined by his party during midterm elections and having to adjust his agenda to fit the political interests of vulnerable Democrats who lost anyway.

Yet the election that was a disaster for the president’s party may have had a rejuvenating effect on Obama. The morning after the midterms, Obama told senior aides, “If I see you moping, you will answer to me.”

People close to Obama say he is energized at not having to worry about helping — or hurting — Democrats in another congressional election on his watch. He has become more comfortable with his executive powers, moving unilaterally on immigration, Internet neutrality and climate change in the last two months. And he sees legacy-building opportunities on the international stage, from an elusive nuclear deal with Iran to normalizing relations with Cuba after a half-century freeze.

“He gained some clarity for the next two years that is liberating,” said Jay Carney, Obama’s former press secretary.

Still, pillars of Obama’s second-term agenda — gun control, raising the federal minimum wage, universal pre-school— seem destined to stand unfulfilled. Wrapping up the Iraq and Af-



President Barack Obama boarding Air Force One at Yangon International Airport, in Yangon, Myanmar. It was supposed to be a joke. “Are you still president?”comedian Stephen Colbert asked Barack Obama earlier this month. But the question seemed to speak to growing weariness with the president and skepticism that anything will change in Washington during his final two years in office. Democrats already are checking out Obama’s potential successors. Emboldened Republicans are trying to push aside his agenda in favor of their own.

ghanistan wars isn’t turning out to be nearly the tidy success story Obama once envisioned. Even supporters say one of the president’s top remaining priorities may have to be simply preventing Republicans from dismantling his earlier accomplishments, including the health care law.

The Yes-We-Can man is entering a twilight of maybes, his presidency still driven by high ambitions but his power to achieve them running out.

Before the midterm election results arrived, Obama’s advisers say, the president realized he would finish his presidency with Republicans running Capitol Hill. He concluded the status quo would mean more gridlock.

Indeed, 2014 had been another year of fits and starts for a White House that has struggled to find its footing in Obama’s second term.

The feeble HealthCare.gov website stabilized, but scandal enveloped the Department of Veterans Affairs. Syria got rid of its chemical weapons, but a violent extremist group pulled the U.S. back into military conflict in the Middle East. The unemployment rate fell, but so did Obama’s approval ratings — to the lowest levels of his presidency.

Nearly two dozen White House officials, former Obama aides, presidential historians and political analysts discussed Obama’s standing as he closes his sixth year in office, some on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss their conversations with the president or his top advisers.

For much of the year, Obama appeared to struggle with the realization that his political standing had slipped.

He publicly complained about criticism of his foreign policy by pundits in Washington and New York. Despite pleas from his party to stay out of November’s elections, he said his policies were indeed on the ballot. He desperately looked for ways to break free of the confines of the White House.

Obama is realistically optimistic about what he can get done over the next two years, advisers say. He wants to try tax reform and sees opportunities to accelerate growth and job creation with the economy on firmer footing. Aides have reached out to historians and political scientists to solicit ideas for Obama’s next State of the Union address.

Yet the president is forging ahead as something of an isolated figure. Congressional Democrats are increasingly willing to go

against him. And in the West Wing, Obama’s tight inner circle of loyal advisers keeps shrinking.

The trio of political gurus who helped direct his presidential campaigns — David Axelrod, Robert Gibbs and David Plouffe—have moved on. And former chief of staff Rahm Emanuel is now the mayor of Chicago. Other longtime aides are eyeing exits. Bringing in fresh talent is getting harder.

Obama is trying to branch out. He started keeping his version of a bucket list: the names of authors, business leaders, innovators and others he wants to bring to the White House for a private lunch or dinner. Those who have visited include inventor and business tycoon Elon Musk, historian Doris Kearns Goodwin and AT&T CEO Randall Stephenson, a major Republican donor.

Signs that Obama’s presi-

dency is closing are all around.

Within weeks, the race to replace him will begin in earnest. Democrats are lining up to endorse Hillary Rodham Clinton, though she’s yet to declare her candidacy.

People close to Obama say he is weighing what he’ll do when he leaves the White House.

He is studying the paths predecessors have taken and has expressed interest in both domestic and international issues.

He is already imagining life with fewer restrictions.

Asked in a New Yorker interview earlier this year whether he would want to be a judge, Obama said that sounded a bit “too monastic.”

“Particularly after having spent six years and what will be eight years in this bubble, I think I need to get outside a little bit more.”

Agonizing, lonely search for missing kids in China

By JACK CHANG
Associated Press

BEIJING — In the grainy video, Zhang Xiuhong can see her daughter ride her bike down a country road on her way to school one spring afternoon six years ago.

In the next shot, Yao Li rides down a driveway a few moments after her classmates walk by. Then, the pictures stop: The 15-year-old disappeared just minutes after that surveillance footage was taken, leaving only a shoe as a clue in a nearby ditch.

Zhang and her husband have since searched all over China for Yao Li, hoping to rescue her from a child trafficking industry that swallows up thousands of boys and girls every year. Along the way, the couple have also been harassed, arrested and jailed repeatedly by police who accuse them of stirring up trouble by joining with other parents and taking their search to the streets.

“We go out and search, and then all these police surround us,” Zhang said in the dingy room she and her husband share near where her daughter was last seen. “Nobody’s watching for my daughter. Nobody’s doing anything. How can we have any more hope?”

In a tightly monitored society where authorities detain even relatives of air crash victims demanding government action, Zhang and other parents of missing children have learned that they must fight on two fronts.

First, they’re up against a sprawling, opaque network



Zhang Xiuhong puts on a shirt displaying information of her missing daughter, Yao Li, to draw attention from the public, at her rented room in Beijing. Zhang and her husband have since searched all over China for Yao Li, hoping to rescue her from a child trafficking industry that swallows up thousands of boys and girls every year.

of abductors and illegal buyers and sellers of children. And since police efforts to find children often leave parents unsatisfied, they must negotiate with authorities to hunt for the kids themselves.

As many as 70,000 children are estimated to be kidnapped every year in China for illegal adoption, forced labor or sex trafficking, making it one of the world’s biggest markets for abducted children, according to the state-run newspaper China Daily. By comparison, in the U.S., about 100 children are abducted annually by people who are strangers to them, said the Polly Klaas Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to preventing crimes against children and assisting in the recovery of missing ones.

The U.S. State Department said in its annual trafficking report this year that China “does not fully com-

ply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.”

Chinese authorities have tried to show they’re tackling the problem, including launching a special anti-kidnapping task force in 2009, which government media say has busted 11,000 trafficking gangs and rescued more than 54,000 children across the country.

In October, the issue was highlighted in the Chinese-produced movie “Dearest,” which told the true story of a couple who found their abducted son after searching for three years.

Still, many parents say they toil largely on their own, with the police at best leaving them alone.

Xiao Chaohua, whose son was 5 when he disappeared

outside his shop in 2007, said appeals to government-run TV to broadcast pictures and names of individual children are largely rejected, as are suggestions to develop a Chinese version of U.S. Amber Alert warning systems to spread information about missing children through roadway signs or other means.

“They won’t broadcast it because if they do, it’ll expose one of China’s problems — the fact that children go missing here,” Xiao said.

The Public Security Ministry, which runs the anti-kidnapping task force, did not respond to several phone calls and a fax seeking comment.

According to Pia Macrae, China director for the international nonprofit group Save The Children, Chinese police are often more willing to help families with greater means, and even then frequently don’t tell parents what they’re doing.

“The parents feel un-com-

municated to and want to take actions,” Macrae said. “We have seen a real effort to reach out from the police to improve things and we hope it will get better.”

While China has strengthened laws against trafficking and raised more public awareness of the issue, several parents said they were operating on their own.

In fact, they said police harassment usually started when they gathered in groups of more than 20 wearing poster boards and handing out fliers with pictures of their children. Xiao said police have also stopped him when he drives his van pasted with photos of missing children.

Chinese police regularly crack down on any groups they perceive to be organizing without government approval and threatening official authority, no matter the cause.

The parents of missing children, however, refuse to give up.

the

Y

YMCA

SOMETHING
FOR EVERYONE

Join the Y in January &

PAY-THE-DAY

The Joiner’s Fee is = to the day of the month!
If you join on January 1st, the joining fee is \$ 1,
join on the 2nd, \$2...and so on!
The sooner you join, the more you save!

• FREE Adult Fitness Classes (Land /Water/Cycle)

• FREE Nursery (with household memberships)

Regular monthly fees apply. Payment Options: Cash, Check or Credit Card.
Monthly bankdraft available from checking, savings.

BENTON HARBOR-ST. JOSEPH YMCA www.bhsjymca.org

Don’t Be Left In The Cold!



Cub Cadet

STARTING AT
\$499⁹⁹

• 4 Cycle Engines

• Electric Start

• 1X, 2X, 3X Stages

• 21” – 45” Clearing Path

H.F.S. TRACTOR

SALES & SERVICE

www.hfstractor.com

HomeTown Courtesy & Service

NILES • 269-683-7272 • 1218 S. 11th Street (across from McDonald’s)

BARODA • 269-422-1753 • 1/4 mile N. of Baroda on Stevensville/Baroda Rd.

EXECUTION

From page A1

forced deprivation of oxygen — as a legal execution method.

Other conservative states also are exploring alternatives to lethal injection because of the problems securing the drugs. U.S. states have had to buy made-to-order execution drugs from compounding pharmacies in recent years because the pharmaceutical companies they used to buy their drugs from refuse to sell them for use in lethal injections.

Tennessee passed a law this year to reinstate the electric chair if it can't get lethal injection drugs and Utah is considering bringing back the firing squad.

Oklahoma has executed 194 inmates since achieving statehood in 1907, including one by hanging, 82 by electrocution and 111 by lethal injection, according to state prison records. But the use of the death penalty was common in the territory long before that. U.S. District Judge Isaac Parker, who operated out of nearby Fort Smith,

earned a reputation as the "Hanging Judge" of the old West and presided over certain crimes committed in Indian territory.

"To me it's a reflection of our frontier culture," said Oklahoma historian Bob Blackburn. "Violence is a part of frontier culture, and vigilante justice has always been a strong element of our history."

Ralph Shortey, a Republican state senator from Oklahoma City who is pushing for Oklahoma to adopt alternative execution methods to lethal injection, estimates that 90 percent of his constituents strongly support the death penalty, despite what happened to Lockett.

"The average Oklahoman is saying he got exactly what he deserves," Shortey said. "A lot of people think they should suffer even more than they do. They think the lethal injection is too easy for them."

Oklahoma prison officials say they've secured the drugs they need to execute the next four inmates — the first is scheduled for Jan. 15 — unless a federal appeals court stands in their way. The inmates are



Sue Ogrocki / AP

This photo shows the gurney in the the execution chamber at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary in McAlester, Okla. The botched April execution of an Oklahoma inmate and other troubling ones in Ohio and Arizona this year gave capital punishment opponents a flicker of hope that the most pro-death penalty parts of the country might have a change of heart. They didn't.

trying to stop their executions, arguing that the state would essentially be experimenting on them by injecting them with unproven and untested drugs and violating the constitutional

ban on cruel and unusual punishment.

"Just because you say you've renovated the execution chamber, doesn't mean a judge will be satisfied that you've identified

the problems and have a strong guarantee they won't happen again," said Richard Dieter, the director of the Death Penalty Information Center, a Washington-based advo-

cacy group that opposes capital punishment.

"They may be optimistic about being able to go forward, but I think there are still a lot of questions out there."

EMMA HULL

From page A1

come out of her own pocket.

"We aren't getting any grants," she said. "Everything is coming out of our community pocket. We do it

as a community."

But Hull believes it's important to show that people in the community can make a difference.

"It keeps me going when I see the families that come and I see their children get involved and their children begin to live the principles."

Hull said she's seen children get together to clean a senior citizen's yard as a way to live by the Kwanzaa principles.

"We've got young kids who go out and say, 'We're supposed to help one another,'" she said.

Positive change

Hull would love to see more young people become more sure of themselves and go back to college to

pursue a career. She said she knows of people who moved to Grand Rapids and South Bend, Ind., who started their own Kwanzaa celebrations in those cities.

Hull explained that people from any religion can celebrate Kwanzaa because it is an African-American cultural holiday, not a religious event. She said people who are not African-American are also invited.

"Most people respect everybody's culture. ... If I want to go to a Chinese parade, I go. If I want to go to a Mexican cantata, I go. It's inclusive."

Hull said bringing about positive change is a theme she has always lived by. Along with her annual Kwanzaa celebration, Hull is chairwoman of the Benton Harbor Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

"That authority is for developers to come in and to bring development into our community," she said. "And when they bring development into our community, it brings jobs, and jobs provide opportunities for families to raise their children.

That's why I'm excited to help developers to come in to help our community grow and expand so people can have a good quality of life in our city."

Time as mayor

Hull said her desire to help bring about positive change is also how she became the first woman mayor of the city, in 1990.

Born and raised in Lexington, Ky., Hull moved to Benton Harbor in 1958 as a new bride. She remembers the city being beautiful.

"When I came here, this city was so pretty to me. ... Then, the industry left and everything went down and people started leaving and abandoning houses."

She said as she was walking down the street one day, she started praying, asking God what she could do to make Benton Harbor a better place for everyone.

"Little did I know that he was going to put me in the position of mayor," she said. "My heart was to see some change and to do what I could do. I can't see destitution and not want to be involved to make a dif-

ference."

Hull ended up being recalled (in 1997) during her second term, but says she didn't take it personally.

"You have to realize that the adversity is not against you," she said. "The adversity is against the office and not personal."

Most enjoyable job

Hull said her job as mayor was the most enjoyable job she ever held.

"My motive was to see the community become a better place and to work as hard and tirelessly as I could for the people to make a difference."

Before becoming mayor, she said she was a nutrition supervisor with the Michigan State University Extension Office in Berrien County for 25 years, where she taught families about proper nutrition.

As long as she is able, Hull said she will continue to do her best to make Benton Harbor a better place to live.

"I'm up and about doing what I need to do."

Contact: lwrege@TheHP.com, 932-0361, Twitter: @HPWrege

SLUR

From page A1

spokesman at the commission's Policy Department said in a statement carried by the country's official Korean Central News Agency.

The White House's National Security Council declined to comment Saturday.

North Korea has denied involvement in a crippling cyberattack on Sony Pictures but has expressed fury over the comedy. Sony Pictures initially called off the release of the film, citing threats of terror attacks against U.S. movie theaters. Obama criticized Sony's decision, and the movie opened this past week.

It wasn't the first time North Korea has used crude insults against Obama and other top U.S. and South Korean officials.

Earlier this year, North Korea called U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry a wolf with a "hideous" lantern jaw and South Korean President Park Geun-hye a prostitute. In May, the North's official news agency published a dispatch saying Obama has the "shape of a monkey."

A State Department spokeswoman at the time called the North Korean dispatch "offensive and ridiculous and absurd."

In the latest incident, the North Korean defense commission also blamed Washington for intermittent outages of North

Korean websites this past week. The outages happened after Obama blamed the Sony hack on North Korea and promised to respond "in a place and time and manner that we choose."

The U.S. government has declined to say whether it was behind the Internet shutdown in North Korea.

According to the North Korean commission's spokesman, "the U.S., a big country, started disturbing the Internet operation of major media of the DPRK, not knowing shame like children playing tag." DPRK refers to the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The commission said the movie was the result of a hostile U.S. policy toward North Korea, and threatened the U.S. with unspecified consequences. North Korea and the U.S. remain technically in a state of war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty. The rivals also are locked in an international standoff over North Korea's nuclear and missile programs and its alleged human rights abuses.

A United Nations commission accuses North Korea of a wide array of crimes against humanity, including murder, enslavement, torture, imprisonment and rape.

The U.S. stations about 28,500 troops in South Korea as deterrence against North Korean aggression.

Authorities probe fatal attack on elderly couple

By ALAN ZAREMBO and IRFAN KHAN

Los Angeles Times (TNS)

LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles County detectives investigating the fatal attack on an elderly couple at their estate in La Verne began scouring the 80-acre hillside property for clues Saturday afternoon.

A helicopter and sheriff's deputies on horseback were being deployed in the search, Lt. Dave Coleman told reporters at the scene.

Shirley Isom, 74, died at the scene Friday in what Coleman described as an extremely bloody attack. She suffered both stab wounds and blunt force trauma.

Her husband, 89-year-old Armie Isom, was transported to a local hospital in critical condition and died later that day, a coroner's official said.

No weapon has been recovered, Coleman said.

According to authorities, a groundskeeper called police at 1:20 p.m. after dis-

covering the couple unresponsive inside their home, located at the end of Roughrider Road.

Neighbors have told investigators they saw a Latino man in a dark hoodie walking down the road away from the house shortly before then. They described him as a transient.

"This guy had a huge backpack," said Robert Mason, a neighbor who drove past the man. "It appeared to be very heavy. He was struggling with the bag."

Mason said it was unusual to see anybody walking on the steep road.

In an effort to find the man, authorities were conducting an air search for any homeless encampments in the area and preparing a composite sketch, Coleman said.

He stopped short of calling the man a suspect.

The search for evidence was expected to extend into Saturday night, given the massive size of the proper-

ty.

A "no trespassing" sign was posted on a tree and a Mitt Romney campaign banner hung across an entry gate to the long driveway leading up a hill to the 5,200-square-foot house.

Trailers, vehicles and other equipment from the family's construction business

were scattered around the lower half of the property. Above the house lies a vast hillside criss-crossed by dirt roads and dotted with patches of forest.

The attack occurred inside and outside the house, though its chronology remains unclear, Coleman said.



NEWSPAPER SERVICES

FREE CLASSIFIED AD

Multiple items accepted totaling \$500 or less – Price must be included in the ad. Limited to 5 lines

Newspaper where you would like your ad to appear: _____

City where items are located: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Print Ad here: _____

*Newspaper Services reserves the right to edit or deny any ad without notification. Ads will be processed on a first come, first-served basis and will begin as soon as processing is complete.

Guidelines...

- Ad will run 1 week with a 5-line limit
- No changes are permitted
- Individuals/Private Parties only. No Businesses (ie: No Rentals, Firms, or Services)
- Ads for tickets, rummage sales, animals for sale, personals, produce, plants, hay, firewood, and handcrafted items are excluded
- Free items or pets must have "Free" included
- Price must be included in the ad and must be less than \$500
- Multiple items accepted but must total \$500 or less
- Limit 1 ad per household per calendar month
- Must have an active subscription to a Newspaper Services publication
- Ads over 5 lines will be charged at our regular rate
- Ads must be received by Email, Mail, Fax or In-Person. NO PHONE CALLS.

Email to: classifieds@newspaperservices.biz

Fax to: 269-429-8344

Mail to: 3450 Hollywood Rd, St. Joseph, MI 49085

BUCHANAN
VIRTUAL
ACADEMY
6TH-12TH GRADE
ONLINE EDUCATION
ENROLL
TODAY!
855-682-2333
Visit us: **MyVirtualAcademy.com**

States, cities brace for global-warming fallout

By RITA BEAMISH
Stateline.org (TNS)

SAN FRANCISCO — Eroding beaches and the seawater that laps onto the Embarcadero waterfront during high tide - not to mention severe storm flooding - were sending a clear message to a city surrounded by water on three sides.

San Francisco responded in September, when its Capital Planning Committee decreed that in all future construction projects, city and county agencies, including low-lying San Francisco International Airport, must acknowledge the rising sea level and come up with plans to adapt to. The sea level around San Francisco rose nearly 8 inches in the past century, and it is projected to rise by as much as 55 more inches by 2100.

In addition to trying to curb the carbon emissions that accelerate global warming, many state and local officials around the country have begun to address warming's concrete effects, such as rising seas and more extreme weather. Despite resistance from climate-change skeptics, their efforts are producing progress, like improved drainage and storm water systems, and elevated infrastructure.

San Francisco's decree is rooted in a science-based assessment of the city's vulnerabilities, said Debbie Raphael, director of the city Environment Department. "Our approach is not simply to build a wall and think the problem is solved, but to explore all options, including looking to nature for solutions, like wetlands."

California has instructed all of its state agencies to prepare for a rise in sea level and other warming effects, and four regional groups work on projects across jurisdictions. The state has

developed guidelines for transportation planners and coastal communities.

California's attention to the issue might be expected, given the state's geography and political orientation. But climate change is also emerging as an issue for state and local officials in more surprising places.

"Today the change is to adaptation, because we see climate change coming so quickly," said Mayor Jim Brainard of Carmel, Ind., who served on a White House panel that studied and local climate-change needs. "Local communities have been working at it very hard," but are stymied by tight budgets, Brainard said. Carmel recently resorted to a \$4.95 per household monthly fee to pay for upgrades to its stormwater system.

In response to Hurricane Sandy, which struck New York and New Jersey in 2012, New York City has begun a \$20 billion project to shore up coastal dunes, tighten building codes, and

protect electrical infrastructure, flood-prone areas, hospitals and natural resources. In Hawaii, a 2-year old law requires state and local officials to consider climate-change effects in state and county planning.

Regional alliances have cropped up, notably in low-lying south Florida, which expects to be significantly affected by rising seas. In 2010, Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties formed the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact to plan for an expected sea rise of as much as two feet by 2060.

Miami Beach already is reaping flood-control benefits from new storm water pumps and upgrades that are part of a \$400 million plan to fight encroaching tidal waters and storms that flood city streets. The city also requires a minimum elevation of 5.7 feet for new sea walls, up from the previous 3.2 feet, and is elevating some of its roads.

Several states are promot-

ing "living shorelines," wetlands and natural landscape features that can provide a buffer against seawater incursion. Chicago and other localities are using green-scapes and permeable paving to reduce storm runoff flooding. In many places, state and local transportation departments are evaluating roadway vulnerability, and some already incorporate climate analysis into construction design.

"We have made rapid progress in a short amount of time," said Steve Adams, climate adaptation director at the nonprofit Institute for Sustainable Communities. Adams said adaptation used to carry a whiff of defeatism, but not anymore. "It's astonishing how clear it is in 2014 that climate change adaptation, or resilience, is really an idea in good standing, where the conversation in 2008 or 2009 was just beginning to emerge."

Among the state and local efforts:

- A directive the Wash-

ington Department of Transportation issued this year states: "Project teams are expected to ask and answer the question, 'How will my project be affected by climate change?'" That means that decisions about enlarging culverts, for instance, should factor in rapidly melting glaciers and severe rains. The new Mukilteo ferry terminal, for example, will include docks and holding lanes elevated for higher sea levels.

- In low-lying Delaware and Maryland, state-funded construction projects now must be built with extreme weather and rising seas in mind. In Maryland, the new standard is 2 feet above the 100-year flood level.
- Massachusetts communities are receiving grants from a \$50 million fund drawn from the state's capi-

tal budget and the fees utilities must pay to the state when they do not meet renewable energy portfolio standards. The money will be used to protect energy systems, fortify sea walls and dams and fight seawater incursion and flooding. The state encourages natural landscape defenses such as marshes and dune restoration. "A dune rather than a stone revetment will have a lot more ecosystem benefits," and climate resilience, said Bruce K. Carlisle, director of the state Office of Coastal Zone Management.

- Scientists in Maine have identified climate-related threats to 168 fish, bird and other species, and the state is considering adding three bat species and three insects to its threatened and endangered species lists.

Made in Michigan



Purveyors of Fine Olive Oils & Balsamic Vinegars

Exceptional Holiday Gifts

Numerous Gourmet Items

424 Phoenix Rd. South Haven
421 State Street St. Joseph

OliveCart.com





FREE GIFT BASKET & WRAPPING!

*WITH COMPLETE PRODUCT PURCHASE

IT'S 2015-- TIME FOR A NEW YOU!



Joining Fee

Only \$25 Single
\$40 Couple/Family

- One year commitment
- Monthly Dues Apply

Exp. 2-28-15



Herald Palladium Reader's Choice Award Winner 2015



- Open & Staffed 100+ Hours Per Week
- Tennis - Racquetball
- Barre Fit
- TRX
- PiYo
- Pilates/Yoga

3630 Tennis Ct. St. Joseph • 269-429-2101
www.sshrc.biz

Holiday Hearing Blues?



FREE REPAIRS

Free in-office repairs on **ALL** makes and models!

*Limit one per customer. Expires 1/30/15

Free BLUE TOOTH Accessories

Receive the BLUE TOOTH accessory of your choice with your new Phonak Quest hearing system!

\$1,000 Trade-in Credit!

when you exchange your current hearing aids towards a set of Phonak!



PHONAK

life is on

Time to rejoin the family.

Call today! 269-983-4828 or 800-829-0106.





Dave Goodyear

Hearing Instrument Specialist
Serving SW Michigan since 1990.

1000 Main Street, St. Joseph
930 Blue Star Hwy, South Haven
269.983.4828 | 800.829.0106

- Full service, multi-line provider
 - No risk 30-day FREE trials
- Over 15 years in the same location
 - service for you now and in the future
- State of the art digital technology
 - with FREE computerized evaluation

Do you remember?

25 years ago – 1989

Don Alsbro, Lake Michigan College physical education instructor, has been elected vice president for health of the Michigan Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

The Benton Harbor City Commission Wednesday night gave City Manager Steve Manning a belated Christmas present – a 28.8 percent pay increase. The pay hike increases Manning's salary from \$45,000 to \$58,000, effective Jan. 1.

Zenith Electronics Corp. stockholders overwhelmingly approved the sale of the company's computer group to Groupe Bull of France this morning, three months after the companies signed a definitive sale agreement.

35 years ago – 1979

The promotions of Alan R. Lyons and Raymond G. Dick have been announced by Veri-technology Electronics Corp., a subsidiary of Zenith Corp., headquartered at Heath Co. in St. Joseph. Lyons was promoted to central regional manager, and Dick was appointed to the position of eastern regional manager.

Pacesetter Bank and Trust's Southwest Napier Avenue branch office will be open from 8 a.m.-noon Saturdays beginning Jan. 5, according to Sharon Wenzel, branch bank manager.

50 years ago – 1964

The New Buffalo Village Council scheduled a March 8 election on whether to change from a village to a city form of government.

Today in history

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Sunday, Dec. 28, the 362nd day of 2014. There are three days left in the year.

Highlight in History:
On Dec. 28, 1944, the musical "On the Town," with music by Leonard Bernstein and book and lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, opened on Broadway.

On this date:
In 1612, Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei observed the planet Neptune, but mistook it for a star. (Neptune wasn't officially discovered until 1846 by Johann Gottfried Galle.)
In 1832, John C. Calhoun became the first vice president of the United States to resign, stepping down because of differences with President Andrew Jackson.
In 1846, Iowa became the 29th state to be admitted to the Union.
In 1945, Congress officially recognized the Pledge of Allegiance.
In 1973, the Endangered Species Act was signed into law by President Richard Nixon.
In 1984, the TV soap opera "The Edge of Night," which first aired on CBS, then on ABC, ended a 28-year run with its final episode.
In 1989, Alexander Dubcek, the former Czechoslovak Communist leader who was deposed in a Soviet-led Warsaw Pact invasion in 1968, was named president of the country's parliament.

5-Day Forecast for St. Joseph

Today	Tonight	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Snow Possible	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy
34°	27°	34° / 25°	26° / 16°	22° / 18°	27° / 23°

Local Outlook

Today we will see mostly sunny skies with a high temperature of 34°, humidity of 69%. West wind 5 to 10 mph. Expect partly cloudy skies tonight with an overnight low of 27°. Northwest wind 5 mph. Monday, skies will be mostly cloudy with a high temperature of 34°.

Local Almanac

Benton Harbor yesterday	
Temperature	
High	49°
Low	45°
Normal High	32°
Normal Low	20°
Record High	56° in 1959
Record Low	-2° in 1990
Precipitation	
Yesterday	0.04"
Month to date	1.44"
Normal month to date	2.39"
Year to date	26.55"
Normal year to date	36.72"

Sun and Moon

Sunrise	8:13 a.m.		
Sunset	5:21 p.m.		
Moonrise	12:28 p.m.		
Moonsset	12:18 a.m.		
			
First	Full	Last	New
12/28	1/4	1/13	1/20

Air Quality

Yesterday	29
Main Offender	Particles
The higher the number, the greater the need for people with respiratory problems to reduce outside activity.	0-50 Good 51-100 Moderate 101-150 Sensitive 151-200 Unhealthy

Weather Trivia

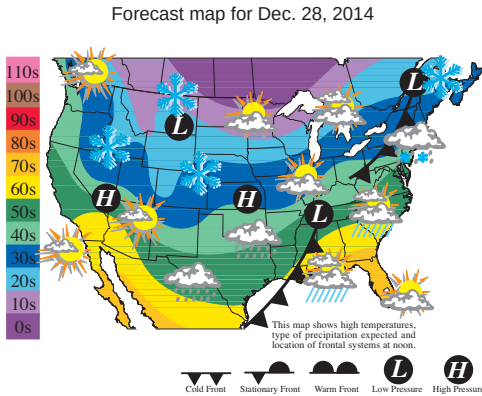
How many years is the sun's solar cycle?

Answer: Eleven years.

Regional Map



National Weather Map



Lake Michigan

Today, northwest winds 10 to 20 kt. Waves 3 to 5 ft occasionally to 7 ft subsiding to 2 to 4 ft in the afternoon. Water temperature 36 degrees. Tonight, northwest winds 5 to 10 kt becoming northeast 10 to 15 kt.

Michigan Forecast

Upper Peninsula

Today, skies will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated snow, highs in the upper 20s. West wind 10 to 15 mph. Monday we will continue to see partly cloudy to cloudy skies with scattered snow.

Lower Peninsula

Today we will see partly cloudy skies with highs in the mid-30s. West wind 7 mph. Monday, skies will be partly cloudy to cloudy with highs in the mid-30s. Light winds.

High school bans 'I Can't Breathe' T-shirts at tournament

By LISA LEFF
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A high school basketball tournament on the Northern California coast has become the latest flashpoint in the ongoing protests over police killings of unarmed black men after a school was disin-

invited because of concerns its players would wear T-shirts printed with the words "I Can't Breathe" during warm-ups. The athletic director at Fort Bragg High School in-

formed his counterpart at Mendocino High School this week that neither the boys nor girls team would be allowed to participate in the three-day tournament hosted by Fort Bragg High starting Monday, Mendocino Unified School District Su-

perintendent Jason Morse said. The boys were reinstated after all but one player agreed not to wear the shirts inspired by the last words of Eric Garner, the New York man who died after an officer put him in a chokehold,

while on the Fort Bragg campus during the Vern Piver Holiday Classic tournament, Morse said. Too few girl players accepted the condition for the team to field a tournament squad, he said. Mendocino varsity teams

first wore the "I Can't Breathe" T-shirts before a game with Fort Bragg on Dec. 16, according to the girls coach, Caedyn Feehan. The girls also wore them before games at two other tournaments and didn't receive any blowback, Feehan said.



*Best wishes for good health
this holiday season and
throughout the new year
from all of us at Lakeland.*



Lakeland HealthCare

Medical Excellence. Compassionate Care.

www.lakelandhealth.org

hp

LOCAL & STATE

New workers' compensation rules take effect

By COREY WILLIAMS
Associated Press

LANSING — Changes in how doctors are paid for treating some injured employees covered by workers' compensation are expected to address the long-term use of pain relievers and help cut medical costs for Michigan job providers, according to state officials.

The new rules prevent reimbursements for opioid treatment beyond 90 days for non-cancer-related chronic pain unless physicians meet detailed reporting requirements, the Michigan Workers' Compensation Agency said.

Pain relievers covered under the rules include morphine, codeine and methadone. The changes to the Workers' Compensation Health Care Services rules and fee schedule took effect Friday.

"These amendments aim to limit potential addiction problems for injured Michigan workers, will help to

keep them healthy and put them back to work," Workers' Compensation Agency Director Kevin Elsenheimer said in a news release.

The agency has been focused on administering a fee schedule, which controls medical costs for work-related injuries.

"The new regulations are part of the agency's continued effort to contain costs for our job providers, stabilize the system and keep the promise of compensation for injured Michigan employees," Elsenheimer said. "All of these adjustments assure that injured Michigan workers have access to quality medical care."

The Michigan Chamber of Commerce, Michigan Manufacturers Association, Michigan State Medical Society and Michigan Pharmacists Association are among the groups that supported the changes, according to Jason Moon, spokesman for the state

See **WORKERS**, page B2



Photos by Jody Warner/HP Correspondent

A combine works to harvest soybeans in Berrien County in late summer. Field crop farmers, like other farmers in Southwest Michigan, were hurt by the weather during the past year.

Wicked weather takes its toll

Extreme cold, wind of 2014 cut farm yield

By MICHAEL ELIASOHN
HP Correspondent

Fruit grower Rodney Winkel described 2014 as a "trying year." Vegetable grower Fred Leitz Jr. called it a "rough year."

And corn and soybean farmer Tod Kubiszak described the year now ending as "interesting," but not in a good way.

Blame it on the weather, of course. Southwest Michigan farmers — some more than others — experienced everything from subzero cold last winter, cool temperatures during the growing season, too much rain and wind at times.

Around July 1, three days before harvesting was to start, Winkel said, a wind storm "turned most of our (tart) cherries from good cherries into juice cherries. Luckily I had a home (processor) for those cherries, but not at a price I would have had for No. 1 cherries."

Wind-whipped cherries that stay on the branches



Farm workers sort Indian corn to be sold at markets around the Midwest in the fall and winter. Extreme cold last winter, wind and inadequate rain at times made 2014 a challenging year for farmers.

start to turn black after a few days, he explained, while those blown onto the ground cannot be used.

Winkel and his wife, Jeanette, also grow peaches, apples and asparagus in Bainbridge Township.

"I was one of the lucky ones," Winkel said regarding his peaches. "While I

had a couple of orchards that had basically nothing, I had other orchards where I had a full crop. You could go a mile away and they had 5 percent of a crop. I know a lot of growers in the southern part of the county who had nothing."

The reason for the short crop, he said, was extreme

winter cold and spring frost.

Bill Shane, senior Extension fruit specialist at the Michigan State University Southwest Michigan Research and Extension Center in Benton Township, guessed this area had half

See **FARMING**, page B2

Oakland U. surpasses 100,000 grads

ROCHESTER HILLS (AP) — A Detroit-area college that was founded as an extension of Michigan State University and once was what an administrator called "a no-name school" has surpassed 100,000 graduates.

Oakland University marked the milestone this month during its winter commencement ceremony. It corresponds with expanding enrollment and construction across its 1,400-acre campus that straddles Auburn Hills and Rochester Hills, The Oakland Press reported Friday.

The school, which opened in 1957, has about 20,000 students. Recent additions to campus include a new engineering building, medical school, more student housing and carillon clock tower.

Jean Ann Miller, director of the Center for Student Activities and Leadership Development, said

Oakland retains its "small school feeling" despite the rising profile. She added there's a growing pride among graduates as amenities and academic programs grow.

"It's not a no-name school anymore," said Miller, a university alumna and longtime employee. "They walk in and can't realize it's the same place."

Oakland also has elevated its stature through sports. The school made the transition to Division I beginning in 1997 and its men's basketball team has made several appearances in the NCAA tournament.

The university said it now has alumni in all 50 states and about 700 outside the U.S. Education, sales, operations and engineering are the top employment fields, and Chrysler, whose U.S. headquarters is nearby, is the largest of employer of Oakland graduates.

BERRIEN COUNTY TRIAL COURT

Drug Court sentences

St. Joseph

Nickie J. Sachjen, 34, Marion Street, Dowagiac, 194 days in jail (credit for 194 days already served) and \$198 for attempted to obtain the controlled drug hydrocodone with a false prescription March 14 at the Lakeland Pharmacy Shoppe, 3900 Hollywood Road, Royalton Township.

Michael T. Parker, 35, South Third Street, Niles, 160 days

in custody (41 days in jail followed by residence in the Kalamazoo Probation Enhancement Program), 18 months' probation and \$1,078 for second-offense possession with intent to deliver marijuana on Oct. 28 at his residence.

Blake Crafton, 22, Green Avenue, Benton Harbor, 130 days in jail, two years' probation and \$1,838 for possession chemicals and equipment used to make methamphetamine Aug. 8 in a residence at 2950 Territorial Road, Benton

Township.

Doris A. Maluk, 46, Wayside Path, Stevensville, 44 days in jail (credit for 44 days already served) and \$798 for possession of less than 25 grams of cocaine Nov. 2 on West Napier Avenue in St. Joseph Township.

Eric D. Ballard, 42, Vincent Court, Benton Township, two days in jail, 90 days on tether, three years' probation, \$2,078 and 250 hours of community service for possession with intent to deliver 11.4 pounds

of marijuana on March 5 at his residence.

David L. Miller, 52, Park Street, Watervliet, \$1,148 for manufacturing marijuana Oct. 3 at his residence.

Matthew L. Johnson, 37, South Third Street, Niles, \$1,598 for possession with intent to deliver marijuana April 15 at his residence.

Tyrone A. Clinton, 32, 1516 Colfax Ave., St. Joseph Township, \$585 for marijuana possession Sept. 13 at Fifth and Main streets, Benton Harbor.

New state laws cover traffic fees, meth, rape evidence

By DAVID EGGERT
Associated Press

LANSING — Roughly 168,000 Michigan residents are starting the new year with a chance to avoid hundreds of dollars in traffic fines by doing volunteer work instead.

Thanks to a new law taking effect Wednesday, motorists will have a one-year window in which they can get out from extra "responsibility" fees for certain offenses — having no proof of car insurance or driving without a valid license, for example. A 2012 law repealed additional penalties for those offenses, but many drivers still owe \$150 to \$200 in annual fines that were previously levied on them for two straight years.

The state is mailing letters to eligible motorists. To waive each qualifying assessment, a driver must complete 10 hours of community service.

"The elimination of fees for lesser driving violations removes some unintended consequences of the original law," said state Treasurer Kevin Clinton, who called the community service component "a win for everyone involved."

The law is tied to a measure that will phase out all responsibility fees over a four-year period beginning this October. Those two-year fees include \$200 for having seven points on a driving record (plus \$100 for each additional point); \$2,000 for serious offenses such as drunken driving; and \$1,000 for driving recklessly or with no insurance — a more serious but less frequently issued ticket than having no proof of insurance.

The responsibility fines were created in 2003 to get irresponsible drivers off the road and raise more money to deal with slumping state revenues. Lawmakers con-

sider the fees unfair, however, and say they make driving and insurance more difficult to afford.

Other new laws will go into effect Thursday or early in January, include:

Meth crackdown

Buying cough and cold medicines for the purpose of making methamphetamine will be illegal under another series of measures intended to crack down on meth makers. The laws also prohibit asking someone to buy the ingredients and require state police to add meth offenders to a national database. The goal is to generate stop-sale alerts so pharmacies don't sell to people convicted of meth crimes. Pharmacists currently are warned when customers try to surpass quantity limits. A House Fiscal Agency analysis says the production of meth — a highly addictive drug whose production can result in ex-

plosions and environmental contamination — remains on the rise, especially in western Michigan.

Rape evidence

Rape evidence may be better organized and tracked under laws designed to help ensure the kits aren't caught in the sort of back-log found when more than 11,000 untested boxes were discovered in a Detroit Police storage facility in 2009. The Sexual Assault Kit Tracking and Reporting Commission — whose members will include the state attorney general and state police director — will develop statewide guidelines to track the status of rape evidence boxes. When someone tells a health worker that she's been sexually assaulted within the last 120 hours, or five days, the employee will have to immediately inform her of the availability of a rape evidence kit. The current noti-

fication requirement is 24 hours.

Motorcycle loophole

A loophole will be closed so motorcyclists can no longer buy a temporary permit every riding season without taking a safety or skills test needed for a full endorsement. The 180-day permit lets motorcyclists ride during the day and without a passenger as long as they're supervised by a licensed motorcycle operator. But enforcement is difficult, and motorcycle advocates say some bikers are repeatedly getting temporary permits to avoid testing. American Bikers Aiming Toward Education (ABATE) says 58 percent of riders killed in motorcycle crashes in 2012 weren't fully licensed.

Physical therapy

A doctor's prescription will no longer be needed to go to physical therapy. People will be able to re-

ceive treatment for 21 days or 10 treatments, whichever comes first, without a prescription. Or they can go for an unlimited number of visits if it's to prevent injury or promote fitness. Health insurers won't have to cover physical therapy services if a prescription isn't issued. Supporters say allowing direct access to physical therapy will bring Michigan in line with 48 other states and expand consumer choice, prevent delays, contain medical costs and lead to better patient outcomes.

Drugged driving

Police will be able to conduct a preliminary roadside analysis for drugs and other intoxicating substances in addition to alcohol. A conditional bond is to be placed on motorists arrested for drugged driving and the information is to be entered into a law enforcement database.

Macomb Co. Exec. Hackel in indy film

By MITCH HOTTS
The Macomb Daily

MOUNT CLEMENS — He’s been a sheriff’s deputy and an elected head of county government. Now Mark Hackel can add acting to his resume. The Macomb County executive has a role in “Urban Myths,” an independent film being produced by a former Macomb Township resident and made in Michigan. “A young lady who used to work in our department contacted me to say she was

making a movie and asked if I had any interest in a role as a police officer,” Hackel told The Macomb Daily. “I read the script and it seemed interesting, so I decided to do it.” Filmed mostly near Gladwin this past summer, “Urban Myths” is the story of a group of high school seniors who head out on a spring break camping trip to check out a series of myths they had heard about. They stumble on a haunted Indian burial ground when scary paranormal activities begin to happen.

The film stars a number of B-list actors and celebrities including Courtney Gains, who was in “Memphis Belle” and “Back to the Future,” Sophie Simmons, daughter of Kiss bassist Gene Simmons, and Gregg Wayans, nephew of Keenen and Damon Wayans. Hackel, who served as a deputy and the Macomb County sheriff before becoming the county’s first-ever executive, plays the role of Deputy Matthews in the film. It was a comfortable role for him – he even wore his old uniform as a cos-

tume. He received no pay. Long known as a media-friendly government official, Hackel believes his time in front of television news cameras helped him relax when it was time to film his scenes. “The hardest part for me was to work in front of all of the other actors who do this for a living, knowing they’d be critiquing me,” he said. “But once I got that out of my head, I knew my lines and recited them. It was pretty interesting.” “Urban Myths” was writ-

ten and directed by Kim Marie for Mirror Dog Productions. A Chippewa Valley High School graduate who studied theater at Macomb Community College before moving to Los Angeles for several years, she met Hackel while working with the Explorers program and as an area volunteer firefighter. They kept in touch over the years and after she entered the movie industry, offered him a role in the movie. She gave his performance a passing grade. “I wanted to go into law

enforcement initially to protect and serve,” Marie said. “There are some similarities in the two fields. Like a detective, a director has to think fast on their feet. I think Mark was able to catch on.” Marie, who now resides in Rochester, said the film is almost wrapped up, but producers are turning to crowdfunding to come up with the \$50,000 needed to complete the special effects. Once the financing is complete, the film may be released by the end of 2015 or early 2016.

ACLU backs evangelists in Arab fest controversy

DEARBORN (AP) — The American Civil Liberties Union is taking the side of Christian evangelists in a First Amendment case at a federal appeals court, despite what it calls “hate-filled speech” directed at Muslims at a Detroit-area street festival. Members of a group called Bible Believers were pelted with rocks while carrying a pig’s head and telling Dearborn Muslims they would “burn in hell.” Wayne County sheriff’s deputies told the evangelists to leave the 2012 event or be ticketed. An appeals court ruled in August, in a 2-1 deci-

sion, that group members’ First Amendment rights weren’t violated. But the full 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals threw out that decision in October and said it would hear the case again. “By ordering the Bible Believers to leave the festival or else be cited for disorderly conduct, (deputies) violated the Bible Believers’ free speech rights under the First Amendment,” the ACLU argued. When “even offensive speech takes place in a public forum, police must take reasonable steps to protect speakers faced with a violent audience.”

WORKERS

From page B1

Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. Raymond Holman, legislative liaison for UAW Local 6000, which represents state employees, said the changes are “probably a mixed bag” but he’s concerned that some new rules “could be used against people.” In general, he

said, the administration of Gov. Rick Snyder has “watered down” such laws and given workers fewer protections. Injured workers in Michigan and their employers are governed by the Workers’ Disability Compensation Act. The act was first adopted in 1912 and provides compensation to workers who suffer an injury on the job and protects employers’ liability.

FARMING

From page B1

of a normal crop of peaches, with the southern half of Berrien County being hardest hit, where extreme below-zero temperatures even killed some trees. But prices were “very good” for growers who had peaches to sell, said Winkel, who had about 60 percent of a normal apple crop. “It was just not a good year,” Winkel said. Many apples remain in storage, so growers don’t know yet what price they will get when their fruit is sold. In addition to the winter cold, there was a shorter-than-desirable bloom period for fruit buds, Shane said. Apple quality was good but, “The crop picked out smaller than we expected. It probably will be about the same as last year, maybe a bit smaller.” The weather also hurt blueberries and grapes. Dave Trinka at MBG Marketing in Grand Junction said North America’s high-bush blueberry crop totaled 703 million pounds, a 5 percent increase over 2013, but Michigan’s blueberry crop of about 90 million pounds was about 20 percent less than last year. Most of the state’s blueberries are grown

in Van Buren, Allegan and Ottawa counties. Steve Tomac at the National Grape Cooperative Association office in Berrien Springs said below-zero temperatures killed some wine and Niagara grape plants, while Concords, being hardier, survived. But the cooler-than-normal growing season reduced sugar content in Concord and Niagara juice grapes, which meant lower prices for growers. Most grapes grown in Southwest Michigan go to the cooperative’s Welch’s plant in Lawton for processing into juice and other products.

Vegetables

“It was a rough year for vegetables,” said Leitz, who farms with his brothers David, Jim and Everett. “We had a cold spring, followed by a lot of rain, followed by a cooler-than-normal summer.” The rain caused a lot of disease, he said, which cut production “down to 60 percent on a lot of stuff.” And with cool temperatures, Leitz added, “a lot of things didn’t pollinate well.” The Leitz brothers, fourth generation farmers, grow tomatoes, cucumbers, cantaloupe, squash, apples and blueberries. Their operation is based in Sodus Town-

ship. Vegetable growers in Southern states also had cooler-than-normal temperatures. That was good for them, which was in turn bad for area growers. Ron Goldy, senior Extension vegetable specialist at the Research and Extension Center, said that in states such as Kentucky, Tennessee and Georgia, vegetable production ceases during hot summers, the time for vegetables from Michigan and other northern states to enter the market. But with temperatures this year staying comparatively cool in the South, Goldy said, production there continued, resulting in an overlap in northern production, which brought down prices paid to growers. A bright spot for the Leitz brothers was worker availability. “We had adequate labor, which is a lot better than we had in 2013,” Fred Leitz said. “But if we had a normal full crop, I doubt we would have been able to get everything (harvested).”

Corn and soybeans

Field crop farmers were also hurt by the weather. “It started cool and wet, so we had a little delay in planting. Then we had a cool summer, which led to a

later-than-normal harvest in the fall,” said Tod Kubiszak. He and sons Tylor and Ethan farm about 500 acres of corn and soybeans in the Lawrence area, none of it irrigated. As of Dec. 22, they were waiting for the ground to freeze to harvest their final 15 acres of corn. He said they usually finish by Dec. 1. In contrast to what the Van Buren County Farm Bureau president called “just an average year” for him and his sons, “there were some garden spots in the state.” Nationwide, he said, “we had a huge crop for corn and soybeans. Iowa, Indiana, Illinois, they really had a great year.” The result of bumper crops elsewhere has been lower prices for corn and soybeans. Greg Goettemoeller, grain farm marketer at the Cargill AgHorizons elevator in Decatur, said the cash price paid there to farmers during the harvest season was in the \$3-to-\$3.50 a bushel range for corn and \$10 a bushel for soybeans. During the 2013 harvest season, prices were \$4-to-\$4.20 and \$12.50 respectively. Prices paid on Dec. 22 were \$3.78 for corn and \$10.09 for soybeans.

Please visit our website at www.ExpoArena.org



The Expo Arena at the Berrien County Youth Fair will be a 6.1 acre complex that will serve as a venue for horse shows, big-name concerts, livestock shows, trade shows, conventions and assemblies, wedding receptions, proms, house and garden shows, circuses, farm implement shows and much more!

Your tax deductible contribution to the Expo Arena at the Berrien County Youth Fair will bring this facility to life by:

- **Providing funds** for the construction of the Expo Arena that will include a 500 stall stable, a 4,000 seat year-round arena, and a hospitality center that will feature a 14,000 square foot ballroom, and 18 classrooms/skyboxes. Plus, a 7,000 seat concert venue!
- **Aiding in creating 500 new jobs** across Berrien and Cass counties.
- **Helping to generate \$32,000,000 annually** in new revenue within a 25-mile radius of the Berrien County Youth Fair grounds.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

Yes! I want to invest in the future of our children, our regional economy, and our communities by supporting the Expo Arena at the Berrien County Youth Fair!

\$ _____ Please make checks payable to: BCYF Expo Arena

I understand that the Expo Arena at the Berrien County Youth Fair is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization and that my contribution is tax deductible.

DONATE TODAY!

Donations from \$25 to \$1,000,000+



For more information, please contact Jack Strayer, Director of Development & Marketing Expo Arena at the Berrien County Youth Fair
9122 Old U.S. 31, P.O. Box 7, Berrien Springs, MI 49103
(269) 473-1662 • Fax (269) 473-4203
www.expoarena.org



Police officers salute as the hearse of New York city police officer Rafael Ramos drives along his funeral procession route in the Glendale section of Queens on Saturday in New York. Ramos and his partner, officer Wenjian Liu, were killed Dec. 20 as they sat in their patrol car on a Brooklyn street. The shooter, Ismaaiyl Brinsley, later killed himself.

NYC officer mourned at funeral as tensions linger

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and MIKE BALSAMO
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Thousands of police officers from across the nation packed a church and spilled onto streets Saturday to honor Officer Rafael Ramos as a devoted family man, aspiring chaplain and hero, though an air of unrest surrounding his ambush shooting was not completely pushed aside.

While mourners inside the church applauded politely as Mayor Bill de Blasio spoke, hundreds of officers outside turned their backs on him in a show of disrespect for what they see as his support for anti-police protesters.

The rush of officers far and wide to New York for Ramos' funeral reminded some of the bond after the Sept. 11 attacks and Superstorm Sandy. Vice President Joe Biden promised that the "incredibly diverse city can and will show the nation how to bridge any divide."

Still, tensions were evident when officers turned away from giant screens showing de Blasio, who has been harshly criticized by New York Police Department union officials as a contributor to a climate of mistrust that preceded the killings of Ramos and his partner, Wenjian Liu.

Sgt. Myron Joseph of the New Rochelle Police Department said he and fellow officers turned their backs spontaneously to "support our brothers in the NYPD."

In a statement, de Blasio's spokesman said: "The Ramos and Liu families, our police department and our city are dealing with an unconscionable tragedy. Our sole focus is unifying this city and honoring the lives of our two police officers."

The NYPD said through its public relations office that it had no comment.

In his eulogy, de Blasio said hearts citywide were broken after the Dec. 20 shootings.

"All of this city is grieving and grieving for so many reasons," de Blasio

said. "But the most personal is that we've lost such a good man, and the family is in such pain."

Gov. Andrew Cuomo praised the sea of blue mourners for their professionalism at recent rallies over police conduct when protesters insulted them, and Biden spoke passionately about the effects of the officers' deaths.

"When an assassin's bullet targeted two officers, it targeted this city and it touched the soul of an entire nation," the vice president said.

Police union officials in contentious contract negotiations with the city have faulted de Blasio for showing sympathy to protesters angry over the police deaths of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, and Eric Garner on Staten Island.

At a hospital after the officers' slayings, the police union's president, Patrick Lynch, and others turned their backs on de Blasio. Lynch said the mayor had "blood on his hands."

After the funeral, Lynch and de Blasio exchanged nods as they exited the church. Lynch refused to answer reporters' questions about officers turning their backs.

Weeks before the shooting, Lynch had suggested officers sign a petition requesting that the mayor not attend their funerals were they to die in the line of duty.

Soon after taking office this year, de Blasio dropped the city's opposition to a judge's finding that the police department discriminated against minorities with its anti-crime stop-and-frisk tactics.

But since last week's shootings, de Blasio has stood firmly by police, calling on demonstrators to temporarily halt protests and praising the department after it arrested several men charged with threatening police.

The killings shook the city and put an end to large-scale local protests criticizing police over the high-profile, in-custody deaths.

When the Ramos family arrived at church Satur-

day, the elder son — wearing his father's NYPD jacket — was hugged by a police officer.

Ramos, a 40-year-old married father of two, was studying to become a pastor and kept Bible study books in his locker, his commanding officer said.

Police Commissioner William Bratton said Ramos had been made honorary chaplain of the police precinct where he had worked.

Bratton said in his eulogy that Ramos and Liu would be "partners for all time." Speaking to Ramos' children, he said: "We are here because your dad was assassinated. It's a different word than 'murdered.' It makes the crime intentional and symbolic. Your dad was assassinated because he represented something."

Officer Dustin Lindaman of the Waterloo Police Department flew from Iowa to attend the funeral.

"He's one of our brothers, and when this happens, it affects everyone in law enforcement — it absolutely affects everyone," he said.

A block from the church, retired NYPD Officer John Mangan held a sign that read: "God Bless the NYPD. Dump de Blasio."

"If the mayor really wanted to do the right thing, he would have gotten into an NYPD car and rode around Bed Stuy and see the difficult jobs these cops do every day," Mangan said.

After the officers' deaths, the gunman, Ismaaiyl Brinsley killed himself. Police said he was troubled and had shot and wounded an ex-girlfriend in Baltimore earlier that day.

In online posts shortly before the attack, Brinsley referenced the killings of Brown and Garner, both of whom were black, by white police officers.

Ramos and Liu were the first officers to die in the line of duty in New York since 2011. Funeral plans for Liu haven't been announced.

They have both been posthumously promoted to first-grade detective.

OBITUARIES

Ann (Letke) Schermer

Ann (Letke) Schermer, 99, of St. Joseph, passed away Thursday, Dec. 25, 2014, at The Willows Assisted Living.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 29, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 2673 West John Beers Road, Stevensville, with Pastor Jonathon Kruschel officiating. Friends may visit an hour prior to the time of service at St. Paul's. Burial will follow at Graceland Cemetery. Memorials may be made to St. Paul's Lutheran Church "Building on God's Blessing Fund" or Hospice at Home. Those wishing to share a memory of Ann may do so online at www.starks-menchinger.com.

Ann was born June 27, 1915, in Chicago, to Frederick and Minnie (Fredricks) Letke. She married Herman Schermer on June 9, 1934, in Bridgman. Ann spent many wonderful years being a homemaker for her husband until his passing in 1989. One of Ann's main interests was puzzles. The more pieces the puzzle had the more she was interested. Ann also loved word searches. When she wasn't doing brain teasers Ann would be tending to her garden. She loved to plant all kinds of flowers and watch them grow into a beautiful, full garden.

Ann is survived by her children: Delores Leng of Stevensville, Roger (Kathy) Schermer of Stevensville; brother, Paul Letke; six grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Ann is preceded in death by her parents, Frederick and Minnie; husband Herman Schermer; children: Leonard, Sandy and Vicki; and son-in-law, James Leng.

Patrick B. Donahue

Patrick B. Donahue, 70, of Coloma, passed away suddenly Friday, Dec. 26, 2014, at his residence. Per Pat's request, cremation has taken place.

Friends and family are invited to the Pour House restaurant at 235 N. Paw Paw St., in downtown Coloma at 2:30 p.m. Monday for a gathering and luncheon in Pat's honor. Duffield & Pastrick Family Funeral Home in Coloma is assisting the family. Those wishing to leave a message or share a memory with the family online may do so at www.duffieldpastrick.com.

Pat was born July 23, 1944, in Mishawaka, Ind. Following his high school graduation he served his country in the United States Army. Pat was a carpenter by trade and a member of the Carpenters Union, retiring in 2000. On Sept. 21, 2004, he and his wife, Joanne, were married. Pat loved working on their



SCHERMER

home and remodeling both the inside and outside. He was also a member of American Legion Post No. 308 in Osceola, Ind., and the Loyal Order of the Moose in Benton Harbor.

He is survived by his wife, Joanne; son, Jim (Kelly) Donahue of New Orleans, La.; daughters: Mary Donahue of Minnesota and Lois (Dave) Horvath of South Bend, Ind.; stepchildren: Clint Crotts and Priscilla Goldner; brothers: Mike (Sandy) Donahue of Mishawaka, Dale (Peanut) Donahue of Osceola, Tracy (Mary) Donahue and Tim (Deb) Donahue, both of Elkhart, Ind.; three sisters: Martha Smith of Mishawaka, Kathy (Phil) De'Hoore of Mishawaka and Julia Burhardt of Illinois; 23 grandchildren and a host of nieces and nephews.

Arthur Lee Moyer

Arthur Lee Moyer, 90, passed away Dec. 10, 2014, in Florida.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 30, at Starks & Menchinger Chapel, 2650 Niles Road, St. Joseph. Friends may visit with the family Tuesday, Dec. 30, from 1 p.m. until time of service at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to Hospice-Cornerstone in the Village, 2445 Lane Park Road, Tavares, Fla. 32778. Those wishing to sign Arthur's Memory Book online may do so at www.starks-menchinger.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to Starks & Menchinger Chapel & Cremations Services.

Arthur was born in Benton Harbor and moved to the Leesburg, Fla., area over 30 years ago from Pine Island, Fla. He was a World War II Army Air Corps veteran and piloted B-17 bombers on many dangerous missions during which he twice had to bail out of the aircraft before they crashed. After the war he went on to own and operate a Ford car dealership with his father and eventually became the road commissioner of St. Joseph County, a post he held until he retired. Arthur will be remembered by those closest to him for his generous heart and thoughtful manner as he interacted with his friends and family. He had a great love of the outdoors. Arthur also enjoyed woodcraft and puzzles, but his passion was golf.

Arthur is survived by his wife of 15 years, Sylvia; daughter, Kathy Sybert of Portage, Mich.; and Cindy (Robert) Dixon of Osceola, Ind., and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Barbara J. Kimmerly

Barbara J. Kimmerly, 76, of St. Joseph died Thursday, Dec. 25, 2014, at Pine Ridge Nursing Home in Lincoln Township.

Family services will be held at a later date at the City Mausoleum in the St. Joseph City Cemetery. Me-

Death notices

Patrick B. Donahue, 70, of Coloma died Dec. 26, 2014, at his residence. Duffield & Pastrick Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Coloma, 468-6000.

Barbara J. Kimmerly, 76, of St. Joseph died Dec. 25, 2014, at Pine Ridge Nursing Home in Lincoln Township. Dey-Florin Chapel, Florin Funeral Service, St. Joseph, 983-1514.

Edward Rogers, 77 of Three Oaks died Dec. 27, 2014, at IU Health, LaPorte, Ind. Pobocik Funeral Home Connelly-Noble Chapel, Three Oaks, 756-3831.

memorials may be made to Pine Ridge Nursing Home. Arrangements are by the Dey-Florin Chapel of Florin Funeral Service in St. Joseph. Please share messages or memories at www.florin.net.

Barbara was born Sept. 30, 1938, in Benton Harbor to Marshall and Florence Kimmerly. She had been a resident of Shoreham Terrace Nursing Home and Pine Ridge Nursing Home for over 26 years due to a long term illness. Barbara was a simple, kind person with a wonderful sense of humor.

She is survived by her nine nieces and nephews and many great-nieces and great-nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and her brothers: Allen Kimmerly, Dean Kimmerly and former sheriff, Robert Kimmerly.

Sheila Kay Smiedendorf

Sheila K. Smiedendorf, 60, of Niles died Friday, Dec. 26, 2014, at her home following an extended illness.

Born on Aug. 12, 1954, in Niles to Robert Louis and Mary Louise (Teixeira) Curtis, Sheila graduated from Brandywine High School, and received her certified nursing assistant training at SMC. She had a long career at the former Pawating Hospital, now Lakeland Community Hospital, Niles, where she was employed until her illness.

Sheila was a member of St. Mark's Catholic Church and volunteered with the Red Cross Blood Bank.

She married Robert Dale Smiedendorf who survives her along with their daughter, Kelli Ann Smiedendorf of Muskegon; an adopted exchange student, son, Nilo (Sabrine, M.D.) Barretto, M.D. of Brazil; Sheila's sister, Barbara (Ronald) Satkoski of Niles; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Mary Hull and Robert Curtis; and two brothers: Robert Louis Curtis, Jr. and Richard Alan Hull.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at St. Mark's Catholic Church with interment at Chapel Hill in Osceola, Ind.

Visitation is from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Monday at the Halbritter Funeral Home in Niles. Contributions to the SMC Scholarship Fund for Brandywine Students. www.halbritterfunerals.com

Extremist leader surrenders in Somalia

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — A leader with the Islamic extremist group al-Shabab, who had a \$3 million bounty on his head, surrendered in Somalia, a Somali intelligence official said Saturday.

Zakariya Ismail Ahmed Hersi surrendered to Somali police in the Gedo region, said the intelligence officer, who insisted on anonymity because he is not authorized to speak to the press.

Hersi may have surrendered because he fell out with those loyal to Ahmed Abdi Godane, al-Shabab's

top leader who was killed in a U.S. airstrike earlier this year, the officer said.

Hersi was one of seven top al-Shabab officials whom the Obama administration offered a total \$33 million in rewards for information leading to their capture in 2012. It is not clear if the reward will be paid out for Hersi because he surrendered.

Despite major setbacks in 2014, al-Shabab remains a threat in Somalia and the East African region. The group has carried out many terror attacks in Somalia and some in neighboring

countries including Kenya, whose armies are part of the African Union troops bolstering Somalia's weak U.N.-backed government.

On Christmas day al-Shabab launched an attack at the African Union base in Mogadishu. Nine people died, including three African Union soldiers, in the attack on the complex, which also houses U.N. offices and western embassies. Al-Shabab said the attack was aimed at a Christmas party and was in retaliation for the killing of the group's leader Godane.

BIRTHS

Lakeland Regional Medical Center, St. Joseph

Benton Harbor — Girl, 7 pounds, 15 ounces, Timreka Callahan and LaCaze Allison, 7:53 p.m. Dec. 26.

Benton Harbor — Girl, 7 pounds 9.5 ounces, Kayla Quinn and Bryan Woodall, 3:33 p.m. Dec. 26.

Berrien Springs — Boy, 7 pounds 12 ounces, Audrianna Zeilke and Cody Davis, 9:12 p.m. Dec. 24.

Buchanan — Boy, 7 pounds, 5 ounces, Sausha and Rick Rodis, 4:04 a.m. Dec. 25.

Niles — Boy, 8 pounds, 5 ounces, Rebecca and Michael Taylor, 7:55 p.m. Dec. 22.

South Haven — Girl, 8 pounds 10 ounces, Sabrina Villanueva and Colyn Carrillo, 5:45 a.m. Dec. 24.

**YOU COULD LOSE UP TO \$2,500
DON'T WAIT ANY LONGER**

Many insurance companies are greatly reducing their Hearing Aid Benefits in 2015. If you or a loved one think you may have a hearing loss, TODAY is the time to call for a Complimentary Hearing Screening. YOU may qualify for:

**2 NO-COST TINY PREMIUM BELTONE
DIGITAL HEARING AIDS!!!!**

St. Joseph 269-932-4942

hp BUSINESS

'14 economy began shaky, finished strong

By **JOSH BOAK**
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — The U.S. economy flexed its old muscles in 2014. More than five years removed from the Great Recession, worries had taken hold at the start of the year that perhaps the world's largest economy had slid into a semi-permanent funk. But consumers, businesses and investors, after enduring

a brutal winter, showed renewed vigor as the year wore on and set the United States apart from much of the world. Stocks repeatedly set record highs — and did so again Friday, with the Dow Jones industrial average rising modestly to a new peak. Employers were on pace to add nearly 3 million jobs, the most in 15 years. Sinking oil prices cut gasoline costs to their lowest levels since May 2009. Auto sales accel-

erated. Inflation was a historically low sub-2 percent. The U.S. economy proved it could thrive even as the Federal Reserve ended its bond buying program, which had been intended to aid growth by holding down long-term loan rates. All told, the United States remained insulated from the financial struggles surfacing everywhere from Europe and Latin America to China,

See **ECONOMY**, page B8



Specialist Jay Woods is reflected in a screen at his post that shows five years of the Dow Jones industrial average, on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange earlier this year. The Dow Jones industrial average jumped above 17,000 for the first time that day. The Standard & Poor's 500 index climbed about 13 percent in 2014, hitting a record high a remarkable 51 times.

AP



AP

Sony Corp. President and Chief Executive Officer Kazuo Hirai speaks during a press conference at the Sony headquarters in Tokyo earlier this year. Sony's iconic gadgetry and the star appeal of Hollywood may have appeared to be a perfect match when the electronics giant bought Columbia Pictures in 1989. A quarter century later, it's apparent that Sony Corp. has not attained the magic synergy it was hoping for. The stolid silence of Sony's Tokyo headquarters over the hoopla surrounding Sony Pictures Entertainment's "The Interview" underscores the longstanding divide between the Japanese parent company and its U.S.-led and -run motion pictures subsidiary, successor to Columbia Pictures.

Sony film mess reflects disconnect between gadgets and entertainment

By **ELAINE KURTENBACH**
AP Business Writer

TOKYO — Sony's iconic gadgetry and the star appeal of Hollywood may have appeared to be a perfect match when the electronics giant bought Columbia Pictures in 1989. A quarter century later, it's apparent that Sony Corp. has not attained the magic synergy it was hoping for. The stolid silence of Sony's Tokyo headquarters over the hoopla surrounding Sony Pictures Entertainment's "The Interview" underscores the longstanding divide between the Japanese parent company and its U.S.-led and -run motion pictures subsidiary, successor to Columbia Pictures. Marrying the cultures of Sony Corp., a quintessentially Japanese company, and its Hollywood studio was such a challenge that company founder Akio Morita

and his successor as chairman, Norio Ohga, never really tried, analysts say. Instead, they left Sony Pictures to mostly run itself. "They're separate businesses run by separate management," said Damian Thong, a senior analyst at Macquarie Capital Securities (Japan). "Since the late 1990s it's been run basically as a stand-alone business." Sony Corp. in Tokyo refused requests for comment on developments related to "The Interview," referring all inquiries to Sony Pictures in the U.S. After first withdrawing the movie from a planned Christmas release on as many as 3,000 screens, Sony Pictures made the movie available on various digital platforms Wednesday, a day after Sony and independent theaters agreed to release it in over 300 venues on Christmas. There were no plans to release the movie in Japan,

even before hackers objected to its satirical portrayal of an assassination of North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un staged a massive cyberattack on Sony Pictures. As entertainment has shifted to digital delivery systems, technology analysts say it has become increasingly clear that Sony botched an opportunity to outdo Apple in creating a far more influential and valuable business from melding its consumer electronics expertise with ownership of a major movie studio and recording label. "It feels like there has been a lot of fumbling and a lack of coordination there for too long," said Rosenblatt Securities analyst Martin Pyykkonen. "They really haven't won in anything in a long time when they could have been a leader in terms of bringing devices and technology together. So shame on them."

The lack of integration between Sony's main divisions carries throughout the group and is among the reasons why the once iconic electronics giant has fallen behind, says Sea-Jin Chang, author of "Samsung vs. Sony" and a business professor at Singapore University. Looking back, Chang believes Sony's 1989 acquisition of Columbia Pictures was mainly a trophy purchase driven by Morita's personal whims. "They made all the possible mistakes they could make in an acquisition," Chang said. "It was driven by ego. It suffered from bad implementation. If you teach a class on M&A (mergers and acquisitions) this is the case study on how not to do it," he said. Sony's top executives have generally refrained from meddling in the

See **SONY**, page B8

Year's top biz stories: U.S. grows while world slows

By **TALI ARBEL**
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — This year showed how sheltered the U.S. economy is from geopolitical and health crises around the world. The global economy sputtered, but the U.S. powered ahead. Employers are finally hiring enough to lower unemployment. A plunge in gas prices and a rising stock market has Americans feeling richer and spending a bit more. Those are some of the top business stories of 2014, as chosen by business editors at The Associated Press. Others include massive product disasters: A string of auto recalls after faulty ignition switches from General Motors Corp. and air bags in many car models caused injuries and deaths. Hackers stole personal information from millions of people in a wave of breaches at stores, banks, a movie studio and other organizations.

We're also becoming increasingly dependent on our phones and tablets, using them to communicate, play and pay. Janet Yellen became the first woman to head the Federal Reserve and U.S. workers won higher pay as cities and states across the country raise the minimum hourly wage.

Corporate deal-making was also in the spotlight. Companies acquired each other at a level not seen since 2007, the year the Great Recession began, while a burst of businesses went public.

The top 10 business stories of 2014:

1. U.S. GROWS AS WORLD SLOWS: After a freezing winter put a chill on buying and selling, the U.S. economy has posted its best six months since 2003. But the rest of the world hasn't been as lucky. Japan has fallen back into recession. The 18 countries that make up the eurozone are barely growing and fear a dangerous drop in prices. Major developing nations aren't faring much better. China's growth has dropped to a five-year low of 7.3 percent. Western sanctions and dropping oil prices have decimated Russia's currency. Brazil just edged out of recession. What's helped the U.S. is its relative insulation. American consumers, not exports, are the main drivers of the world's largest economy.

2. JOBS ARE BACK: Millions of Americans still struggle with low pay and fewer hours of work than they want, and millions have given up looking for a job entirely. But five years after the recession ended, the U.S. job market is looking healthy. The unemployment rate is below 6 percent. Employers added nearly 3 million jobs, the

most since 1999, as shoppers and businesses spend more. As a result, the Federal Reserve ended its recession-era stimulus program in October and is edging closer to lifting interest rates. The Fed has kept rates near zero since 2008 to spur lending and investment.

3. SECURITY BREACHES: The theft of 40 million credit and debit cards and 70 million personal records from Target last fall turned out to be just the beginning. Home Depot Inc. hackers nabbed 56 million cards and 53 million email addresses. There were breaches at Kmart, Dairy Queen, and Albertsons. JPMorgan Chase & Co. said hackers stole information covering 76 million households and 7 million small businesses. Sony employees' private information and emails were posted online. The consequences? Sony Pictures Entertainment canceled the mass release of "The Interview," a comedy about assassinating the North Korean leader, after hackers threatened to attack movie theaters. Target Corp. replaced top executives. Shops, card companies and banks sped up card security improvements.

4. OIL PLUNGE: Global crude prices have fallen to around \$56 per barrel from this year's high of \$115 because of more production, especially in the U.S., while slowing economies in Europe and Asia crimp demand. A rapid decline in the second half of the year pushed gasoline to about \$2.30 a gallon in the U.S., the lowest price in nearly five years. Americans are pocketing \$15.4 billion more a month than when gas was at its 2014 high of \$3.70. Cheaper crude is also pumping up auto sales and saving airlines money on jet fuel. But drilling could slow in North Dakota's new boomtowns and other regions, hurting businesses that have cropped up. And governments in energy producers Russia, Venezuela and Iran are being squeezed, increasing the likelihood of political upheaval.

5. AUTO RECALLS: In the U.S. alone, automakers recalled more than 60 million cars and trucks. That far surpasses the previous record of 30.8 million in 2004. The bulk of those come from two problems that have led to nearly 50 deaths and dozens of injuries. Japanese air bag supplier Takata, whose air bags can inflate too fast and spew shrapnel, has fought regulators' demands to expand recalls. And GM was fined the maximum \$35 million by U.S. safety regulators for dragging its feet — for a decade — over

See **TOP STORIES**, page B8

Flying high: Airstream can't keep up with demand

By **MITCH STACY**
Associated Press

JACKSON CENTER, Ohio — Bob Wheeler still gets the question sometimes when people find out he runs the company that builds those shiny aluminum campers: "Airstreams? They still make those?" Not only are the retro-looking "silver bullet" travel-trailers still being built by hand at the same western Ohio site that has produced them for 60 years, but the company also can't roll them out of there fast enough to meet the demand these days. The instantly recognizable silver bubble design — inspired by airplane fuselages — hasn't been tweaked much since the first Airstreams took to the open



AP

Airstream travel trailers line the factory floor earlier this year as they are assembled at the Airstream factory in Jackson Center, Ohio.

road in the 1930s on the way to becoming an American icon. The polished campers have cameoed in Hollywood movies and even quarantined the Apol-

lo 11 astronauts when they got back from the moon. They have also inspired a legion of devotees who socialize with one another at Airstream caravans and ral-

lies all over the world — including an annual Ohio jamboree known as "Alumapalooza." "Any time we've seen an Airstream, it's like the clouds part and an angelic choir starts singing," says Cliff Garinn, a 49-year-old college career counselor from Dallas. He and his husband bought a new one in April and are already trading up to a larger model for frequent weekend camping trips and summer vacation.

Airstream builds 50 travel-trailers every week at the plant in Jackson Center, all gleaming and aerodynamic and riveted by hand. The backlog is about three months, and ground has already been broken on a ma-

See **AIRSTREAM**, page B8

Time to assess your net worth

WASHINGTON — Fewer people seem to be making financial resolutions for 2015.

In its annual New Year's resolutions poll, Fidelity Investments found that only 31 percent of survey participants said they were considering setting a financial objective, down from 43 percent in 2014.

Similarly, Allianz Life Insurance found people were more concerned about their waistlines than their wallets — their description, not mine. Only 30 percent of respondents in Allianz's survey chose financial fitness as a top goal for 2015.

Both companies surmise that Americans are more confident about their financial situations and so aren't feeling the pressure to focus on finances. The economy is healthier. Interest rates are still super low. The percentage of people saying now is a good time to find a quality job jumped to 36 percent in

December, a long way up from the 8 percent level of confidence that Americans had in the job market in November 2011, according to Gallup. And the stock market has been roaring, boosting investment portfolios and in many cases erasing the losses of the Great Recession. While certainly one's health is important — I know I'm promising myself to get more sleep and exercise — your financial well-being is equally vital. But we can't forget the past. The recession and its trials and tribulations should be a constant reminder of how low things can go.

Don't get cocky by letting your confidence lead you right back to mistakes that left you more vulnerable than you should have been.

One exercise that can humble you is to take a key financial assessment. After you do this checkup, you'll know what, if anything, you'll need to do to improve



Michelle Singletary

There are a lot of pretenders, people who appear rich but are really paupers because they have a negative net worth. Net worth is the difference between your total assets and liabilities or, simply put, what you owe minus what you own. The more you own, the larger your net worth.

There is a huge gap between the net worth of upper-income Americans and families who are either middle-income or lower-income, according to findings by the Pew Research Center. It's the widest wealth gap in 30 years, Pew notes.

In 2013, upper-income families had \$639,400 in net

your financial situation.

So, when was the last time you calculated your net worth?

It is different from your income.

worth compared to \$96,500 for middle-income families and \$9,300 for lower-income families.

"[Net worth] is an important dimension of household well-being because it's a measure of a family's 'nest egg' and can be used to sustain consumption during emergencies (for example, job layoffs) as well as provide income during retirement," wrote Pew researchers Richard Fry and Rakesh Kochhar.

Although the recession pushed down the net worth of upper-middle income families, they've seen their wealth double since 2003, according to Pew. The same can't be said of so many other families.

"The Great Recession destroyed a significant amount of middle-income and lower-income families' wealth, and the economic 'recovery' has yet to be felt for them. Without any palpable increase in their wealth since 2010, mid-

dle- and lower-income families' wealth levels in 2013 are comparable to where they were in the early 1990s," wrote Fry, a senior research associate at Pew's Hispanic Trends Project and Kochhar, associate director for research at Pew.

Bankrate.com has an online net-worth calculator that's nicely organized and does the math for you. There are a lot of things I like about the calculator. It explains the various items that go on the asset and liabilities side of your net-worth statement. It can estimate how much your assets might change in value over 10 years by allowing you to select an average annual rate of increase — or decrease, if you know you'll be taking on some debt in the near future.

You'll have to estimate the value of household assets. For your major assets, such as your automobiles and home, you'll have to find out the current market value.

For your home, try Zillow.com or Realtor.com. For your car, there are a number of online resources — Consumer Reports, Edmunds, Kelley Blue Book, AutoTrader and CarGurus — to help determine how much you could get for your vehicle.

Once you've calculated your net worth, you have a starting point to see how you're doing. If you want a comparison with others at your age or income level, use CNNMoney's calculator at <http://cnmmon.ie/1B5JYW6>.

Although you shouldn't be in competition with others, if you don't like your net-worth figure, make some changes. And those changes can start with making some financial resolutions for the new year.

Readers can write to Michelle Singletary c/o The Washington Post, 1150 15th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20071. Her email address is ismichelle.singletary@washpost.com. Follow her on Twitter (@SingletaryM) or Facebook (www.facebook.com/MichelleSingletary).

Ask the Fool

A Different Dividend

What's a stock dividend? — G.W., Manchester, New Hampshire

You're probably familiar with traditional dividends, which involve companies with excess cash paying out some of it to shareholders in the form of cash dividends every quarter (and sometimes every month).

But not all dividends are paid in cash. A company might opt to reward shareholders with additional shares of stock, instead. That can seem more appealing to us investors, but by increasing its share count, the company is diluting the value of existing shares. (Imagine a pizza, where the more slices there are, the smaller each one is.)

The idea can appeal to the company's management, though, as it gets to reward shareholders without sacrificing any cash. It awards shareholders a share or a fraction of a share for each share owned, and in many ways is like a stock split.

How many shareholders do companies usually have? — P.Y., Memphis, Tennessee

It can vary widely. Privately held companies might have just a few, but publicly traded ones typically have many thousands. Hormel, for example, cites about 13,800 shareholders of record, while Kroger has 30,449.

Keep in mind that the number of shareholders changes all the time as shares are bought and sold, and that the numbers are rarely exact. Many shares are held in "street name," too, meaning that their brokerage holds their shares for them, and the company may not know how many individuals make up that block of brokerage shares or who they are.

IBM, for example, has stated that, "At year-end 2012, there were 491,541 registered owners of IBM stock. Another 1,600,000 stockholders own IBM stock through brokerage firms, banks, credit unions and other financial institutions."

Got a question for the Fool? Send it in — see Write to Us



Fool's School

Terms to Know

Understanding the following terms can help you be a better investor:

- **Book value:** A company's assets, minus liabilities and intangible assets, which can be calculated via the company's balance sheet. It represents what would be left over in assets if the company went out of business.
- **Bull (and bear) market:** When the overall market gains (or losses) value over an extended period of time. There's no official definition, but many feel a gain (or drop) of at least 10 percent is needed to qualify. (A smaller drop is often called a "correction.")
- **Capital appreciation:** One of the two components of total return (along with dividend yield), capital appreciation reflects how much the underlying value of a security has increased. If you bought a stock at \$20 per share and it has risen to \$23, you've got 15 percent appreciation on your investment.
- **Capital gain/loss:** The difference between the price at which an asset



To Educate, Amuse & Enrich

My Dumbest Investment

Costly Advice

My dumbest investment move was listening to a broker from a large brokerage. I figured he had to be very savvy to work there. I told him, back around 1994, to buy shares of America Online, Dell, Microsoft and Johnson & Johnson, among other stocks.

Instead, he pushed his presumably better ideas and soon I was invested in them. Then, just before some of them went up, he said that his brokerage was recommending real estate investment trusts (REITs) now. I was moved into some of them, and they dropped in value. For all this, I was paying him more than \$6,000 per year. I could have had millions by investing on my own. — F.I., Dover, Oklahoma



The Fool Responds: Some financial advisers have conflicts of interest, getting compensated by having you make certain investments. And a brokerage will profit more if you trade frequently, as it charges trading commissions. You might already be a savvy stock picker than your adviser, or you can become one by reading and learning. You'll cost yourself less, too, investing on your own. Remember, some brokers are mostly salespeople.

Do you have an embarrassing lesson learned the hard way? Boil it down to 100 words (or less) and send it to The Motley Fool c/o My Dumbest Investment. Got one that worked? Submit to My Smartest Investment. If we print yours, you'll win a Fool's cap!

LAST WEEK'S TRIVIA ANSWER

I began as a grocery store launched in Cincinnati in 1883 with \$372. In 1901, I was the first grocery store to feature a bakery. Today I'm one of the world's biggest retailers, with more than 2,600 locations in 34 states and more than 375,000 employees. My formats include grocery stores, multi-department stores, discount stores, convenience stores and jewelry stores. Brands under my roof include City Market, Dillons, Food 4 Less, Fred Meyer, Fry's, Harris Teeter, Jay C, King Soopers, QFC, Ralphs, Smith's and my own well-known name. I rake in more than \$100 billion annually. Who am I? (Answer: The Kroger Co.)

Write to Us! Send questions for Ask the Fool, Dumbest (or Smartest) Investments (up to 100 words), and your Trivia entries to Fool@fool.com or via regular mail c/o this newspaper, attn: The Motley Fool. Sorry, we can't provide individual financial advice.

© 2014 THE MOTLEY FOOL/DIST. BY UNIVERSAL UCLICK 12/25

Name That Company

One of my roots goes back to 1833 and another to 1889, when a company was founded in the Netherlands to process concentrated fruit juices. By 1917, another key predecessor company had a presence in Manhattan and was importing essential oils. A 1958 merger gave me my current name and made me a major supplier in the flavor and fragrance industry. My flavor compounds are used in foods, drinks and sweets, while my fragrances are used in everything from perfumes to detergents to deodorants. My 2000 acquisition of Bush Boake Allen created the world's largest flavor and fragrance company. Who am I?

Know the answer? Send it to us with Foolish Trivia on the top and you'll be entered into a drawing for a nifty prize!



From business planning to growth planning

Experts agree that regular business plan reviews are essential once your small business is up and running. It's always helpful to revisit and revise your projections, and make sure the factors behind them remain accurate.

But as your business evolves, there are sure to be more influences on what you do and the customers you serve, as well as a new set of unknowns surrounding the directions in which you want to expand. Merely assuming things will work out or taking a haphazard approach is even riskier now than when you started out because you have much more invested in the business.

That's why it's helpful to regularly engage in some strategic planning for your small business and define near- and long-term objectives, the strategy and tactics by which you'll pursue them, and metrics for gauging your progress. The result, known as a growth plan, will provide a better road map for tackling the future, and better position you for new opportunities.

Start by comparing the current status of your business with your original intent. Are you where you intended to be, or have you modified your mission? What are current strengths, and what



This column is provided by SCORE, an organization dedicated to helping small businesses start, grow and succeed. The local SCORE chapter provide free and confidential mentoring in management, accounting, marketing and business plan preparation.

areas could be improved upon? Any glaring problems or shortcomings should be addressed as quickly as possible.

Also take a comprehensive look at the state of your market, and what is shaping it. Your original expectations may be on target, or there may be emerging trends that will radically alter your industry. Needs and issues facing your existing and target customers should also be examined.

With that information in hand, project three or five years out, and set objectives that will keep your small business in step with these trends. What resources will be needed, and where can they be found (e.g., new staff, training, upgraded equipment and fa-

cilities?) What costs are involved, and what kind of learning curve may be required? Develop an action plan for each one with milestones as appropriate.

Regularly review your growth plan to assess your progress. It, like your business plan, is a guide that can be adapted as conditions change. You may find yourself ahead of schedule, or dealing with unforeseen factors that require a schedule revision or complete overhaul. But your small business can only benefit, as there's no such thing as too much planning.

Two helpful books on small business growth planning include The Pumpkin Plan: A Simple Strategy to Grow a Remarkable Business in Any Field by Mike Michalowicz, and Strategic Planning: Fundamentals for Small Business by Gary May. Both are widely available in bookstores and via online retailers.

For more ideas of growing your small business, contact SCORE "Mentors to America's Small Business." SCORE provides free and confidential business mentoring and training workshops to small business owners.

To contact the local SCORE mentors, call 925-6100 or go on the Web to kalamazoo.score.org.

It pays to shop around for auto financing

DEAR BRUCE: I want to purchase a new vehicle in 2015. I have never purchased a new car before. I am wondering if I should go to my local bank and apply for a bank loan, or allow the car dealership to take care of the financial part of the car buying process. — James



Bruce Williams

DEAR JAMES: You've mentioned two possibilities, both of which should be explored.

First, drop into your bank and find out exactly how much money they will want down, the interest rate they will charge, and for how many years. The "how many years" part is an important issue because, although the payments may seem smaller

and more attractive, paying off the vehicle faster is without question the better choice. The second possibility you mentioned is having the dealership take care of the financials. You certainly should explore that, particularly if it is pushing financing — in other words, no money down, no interest and so forth.

It shouldn't be too hard to compare the two propositions. The variables you should consider are how long the obligation will be held and at what interest rate. For example, if you pay cash, how much of a discount would you get?

It pays to walk softly and investigate all possibilities to ensure you get the best deal.

Send questions to bruce@brucewilliams.com. Questions of general interest will be answered in future columns. Owing to the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.

The Week Ahead

Find out Tuesday, when Standard & Poor's releases its latest S&P/Case-Shiller index of home prices.

Source: FactSet

Source: FactSet

AP



Notes on data: Total returns, shown for periods 1-year or greater, include dividend income and change in market price. Three-year and five-year returns annualized. Ellipses indicate data not available. Price-earnings ratio unavailable for closed-end funds and companies with net losses over prior four quarters. Rank classifies a stock's performance relative to all U.S.-listed shares, from top 20 percent (far-left box) to bottom 20 percent (far-right box).

GoPro (GPRO)		Friday's close: \$69.23	Price change* 1-mo 3-mo 6-mo		
52-WEEK RANGE		Price-earnings ratio: Lost money	GPRO	-12.4%	-15.7
\$29		98		120.9	
		(Based on past 12 month results)			
			*IPO date: June 26		Source: FactSet

GoPro (GPRO)		Friday's close: \$69.23	Price change* 1-mo 3-mo 6-mo		
52-WEEK RANGE		Price-earnings ratio: Lost money	GPRO	-12.4%	-15.7
\$29		98		120.9	
		(Based on past 12 month results)			
			*IPO date: June 26		Source: FactSet



US\$MVal 35.10 +.70 +4.1 |

Call toll-free: 1-800-425-2400, ext. 200

Don't see your stock or mutual fund? Contact us at (269) 429-2400, ext. 231 or e-mail business@TheH-P.com to request it.

MarketPulse

GOOD BAROMETER

As goes January, so goes the year. The old stock-market adage means that if January is an up month, the full-year results will likely follow suit. The barometer has had a pretty good history, with a 77 percent accuracy rate since 1950, but some market watchers prefer to narrow it to an even finer degree. They say that if just the first five days of January are up, the full year often is as well. That narrower barometer has an 85 percent accuracy rate, according to the Stock Trader's Almanac. It's much less reliable, though, if the first five days are down. In that case, it's about as accurate as a coin flip in predicting full-year results.



SMALL SURPRISE

Small-cap stocks have rebounded to a record high. For much of the year, small-cap stocks struggled due to worries that they had become too expensive. The Russell 2000 small-cap index had several jagged declines, including an 11 percent drop from early September to mid-October, while large-cap stocks marched higher. But small-cap stocks have since recovered and on Friday reached an intraday record. A big reason is that they do more business in the U.S. than their larger rivals, and the U.S. economy appears to be the world's healthiest. To be sure, large-cap stocks have had an even better year, but the gap in performance has narrowed sharply.



BUYBACK BINGE

Apple spent \$17 billion last quarter buying back its own stock. Only once before has a company spent so much on repurchases. It was earlier this year, when Apple did it. The iPhone maker in fact holds the title for the three biggest quarters for stock buybacks, and all have occurred since the spring of 2013. Apple's stock buyback last quarter was part of \$145.2 billion in spending by Standard & Poor's 500 companies on buybacks. That's up 13 percent from a year earlier. Investors often like buybacks, as they can reduce the number of shares a company has outstanding and give a boost to earnings per share.

Largest quarterly stock buybacks

Apple	Q1 2014	\$18.0 b
Apple	Q3 2014	\$17.0 b
Apple	Q2 2013	\$16.0 b
IBM	Q2 2007	\$15.7 b
Johnson & Johnson	Q2 2012	\$12.9 b

Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices

AP

Quotable

"If you teach a class on M&A (mergers and acquisitions) this is the case study on how not to do it."

— Sea-Jin Chang, author of "Samsung vs. Sony" and a business professor at Singapore University, commenting on Sony's acquisition of Columbia Pictures in 1989

Record highs

It was only back in October that the stock market flirted with a correction — a 10 percent drop. But that was then. Investors have shrugged off numerous fears, including Europe possibly falling into recession and plunging oil prices, to drive the market to new highs in the fourth quarter. The Standard & Poor's 500 index has closed at a record high 52 times this year. The Dow Jones industrial average has had a streak of its own, setting a new record 37 times, according to S&P Dow Jones Indices.

S&P 500

This year the S&P 500 closed above 1,900 and 2,000 for the first time.



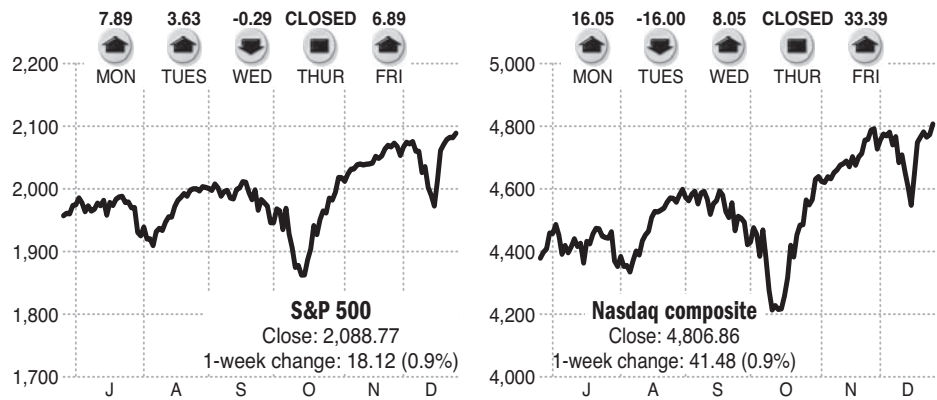
Sources: FactSet; S&P Dow Jones Indices

The S&P 500 has had more record-high closes this year than any in nearly two decades.

Year	# of closing highs
1995	77
1964	62
1928	59
2014	52*
1929	48
1998	47
1987	47
2013	45
1997	45
1985	43
1955	41

* 4 trading days left
Trevor Delaney; Jenni Sohn • AP

StocksRecap



WEEKLY PERFORMANCE										
52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	INDEX	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	CHG %CHG	MO	QTR	YTD %CHG	1YR %CHG
18103.45	15340.69	Dow Jones industrial average	18103.45	17812.25	18053.71	+248.91 +1.4	▲	▲	+8.9	■ +9.6
9310.22	7009.98	Dow Jones transportation	9233.61	8995.76	9199.65	+210.20 +2.3	▲	▲	+24.3	■ +25.1
638.77	479.05	Dow Jones Utilities	638.77	610.95	635.54	+22.05 +3.6	▲	▲	+29.6	■ +30.3
11334.65	9732.47	NYSE Comp.	11008.54	10879.23	10985.40	+95.15 +0.9	▲	▲	+5.6	■ +6.1
6053.61	5119.48	NYSE International	5424.51	5368.24	5411.31	+30.30 +0.6	▼	▼	-5.5	■ -4.9
4347.09	3414.11	Nasdaq 100	4322.45	4270.54	4314.10	+32.32 +0.8	▼	▲	+20.1	■ +20.7
4814.95	3946.03	Nasdaq Comp.	4814.95	4757.81	4806.86	+41.48 +0.9	▲	▲	+15.1	■ +15.6
2092.70	1737.92	S&P 500	2092.70	2069.28	2088.77	+18.12 +0.9	▲	▲	+13.0	■ +13.4
1472.63	1264.57	S&P MidCapS&P MidCap	1472.63	1449.28	1467.90	+18.17 +1.3	▲	▲	+9.3	■ +9.9
21988.13	18575.20	Wilshire 5000	21988.13	21712.15	21949.03	+221.53 +1.0	▲	▲	+11.4	■ +11.9
1217.01	1040.47	Russell 2000	1217.01	1193.57	1215.21	+19.25 +1.6	▲	▲	+4.4	■ +4.7
350.97	302.48	Dow Jones Stoxx 600	344.06	340.99	344.06	+3.76 +1.1	▼	▲	+5.2	■ +5.0
6904.86	6072.68	FTSE 100	6620.95	6545.27	6609.93	+64.66 +1.0	▼	▼	-2.1	■ -2.1

The Dogs of 2014

The "Dogs of the Dow" are the 10 highest-yielding stocks in the Dow Jones industrial average at the beginning of the year.

The investment strategy is intended to identify blue-chip stocks trading at bargain prices. To follow the strategy, buy the Dogs in January and at the end of the year, sell any whose yields have fallen out of the top 10. A stock's yield is its annual dividend divided by its price, so a high yield can be the result of a falling price. Due diligence is required because a stock's price may have fallen for good reason.

Among this year's Dogs, Intel was at the top with a total return of almost 50 percent. Chevron trails the pack. Its shares hit a peak in July and have continued to decline with plunging oil prices.

How the dogs of 2014 have fared	Dividend yield	Total return, YTD
Intel (INTC)	2.4%	48.9%
Microsoft (MSFT)	2.6	32.2
Cisco Systems (CSCO)	2.7	30.1
Merck (MRK)	3.1	18.3
Pfizer (PFE)	3.5	6.2
AT&T (T)	5.5	1.8
Verizon (VZ)	4.6	1.3
McDonald's (MCD)	3.6	0.0
General Electric (GE)	3.6	-4.6
Chevron (CVX)	3.8	-5.9
Dow Jones industrial average	2.1	11.3
S&P 500	2.0	14.9

Source: FactSet

Return data through Dec. 24

Trevor Delaney; Jenni Sohn • AP

InterestRates

Money market mutual funds	YIELD	MIN INVEST	PHONE
Taxable—national avg	0.01		
Meeder MMF/Retail	0.07	\$ 2,500 min	(800) 325-3539
Tax-exempt—national avg	0.01		
Alpine Municipal MMF/Inv	0.02	\$ 2,500 min	(888) 785-5578

U.S. BOND INDEXES	FRIDAY YIELD	1WK	CHANGE 1MO	3MO	1YR	52-WEEK HIGH	LOW
Broad market Lehman	2.32	0.04	▲	▲	-0.13	2.51	2.06
Triple-A corporate Moody's	3.83	0.03	▼	▼	-0.68	4.59	3.70
Corp. Inv. Grade Lehman	3.18	0.03	▲	▲	-0.06	3.28	2.81
Municipal Bond Buyer	4.31	0.01	▼	▼	-0.82	5.15	4.25
U.S. high yield Barclays	6.62	-0.15	▲	▲	0.96	7.30	4.83
Treasury Barclays	2.00	0.08	▲	▼	0.13	2.10	1.64

TREASURYS	FRIDAY YIELD	1WK	CHANGE 1MO	3MO	1YR	52-WEEK HIGH	LOW
3-month T-Bill		-0.03	▼	▼	-0.07	0.08	
6-month T-Bill	0.09	-0.01	▲	▲	0.00	0.13	0.03
52-week T-Bill	0.23	-0.01	▲	▲	0.11	0.25	0.07
2-year T-Note	0.74	0.10	▲	▲	0.34	0.75	0.29
5-year T-Note	1.75	0.10	▲	▼	0.01	1.83	1.34
10-year T-Note	2.25	0.09	▲	▼	-0.73	3.03	2.06
30-year T-Bond	2.82	0.07	▼	▼	-1.08	3.94	2.69

Money fund data provided by iMoneyNet Inc.

Foreign Exchange

The dollar gained versus the euro, the pound and Japanese yen. The ICE U.S. Dollar index, which compares the dollar's value to a basket of key currencies, also increased.

MAJORS	CLOSE	CH.	%CH.	6MO.	1YR.
USD per British Pound	1.5558	+0.0004	+0.03%	1.7024	1.6420
Canadian Dollar	1.1626	-0.0002	-0.02%	1.0687	1.0643
USD per Euro	1.2176	-0.0043	-0.35%	1.3607	1.3693
Japanese Yen	120.39	+24	+20%	101.69	104.72
Mexican Peso	14.6842	-0.0332	-2.33%	13.0178	13.0674

EUROPE/AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST

Israeli Shekel	3.9186	-0.0055	-1.14%	3.4231	3.4917
Norwegian Krone	7.4775	+0.0286	+3.8%	6.1362	6.1408
South African Rand	11.6100	-0.0052	-0.04%	10.6353	10.3632
Swedish Krona	7.8505	+0.0745	+9.5%	6.7405	6.5499
Swiss Franc	.9878	+0.0037	+3.7%	.8939	.8962

ASIA/PACIFIC

Australian Dollar	1.2321	+0.0001	+0.01%	1.0630	1.1245
Chinese Yuan	6.2289	+0.0232	+3.7%	6.2286	6.0749
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7614	+0.0014	+0.02%	7.7518	7.7554
Indian Rupee	63.683	+2.08	+3.3%	60.200	61.940
Singapore Dollar	1.3242	+0.0017	+1.3%	1.2494	1.2692
South Korean Won	1106.15	+3.75	+3.4%	1016.96	1059.50
Taiwan Dollar	31.73	-0.00	-0.00%	29.96	30.04

Commodities

The price of oil fell Friday, resuming a slide that has cut the price of crude nearly in half since June. Natural gas also fell. In metals trading, gold and silver rose. Copper fell.

FUELS	CLOSE	PVS.	%CH.	%YTD
Crude Oil (bbl)	54.73	55.84	-1.99	-44.4
Ethanol (gal)	1.67	1.63	+0.61	-12.7
Heating Oil (gal)	1.91	1.92	-0.82	-38.0
Natural Gas (mm btu)	3.01	3.03	-0.76	-28.9
Unleaded Gas (gal)	1.51	1.51	-0.26	-45.8

METALS	CLOSE	PVS.	%CH.	%YTD
Gold (oz)	1195.30	1173.50	+1.86	-0.6
Silver (oz)	16.11	15.67	+2.80	-16.7
Platinum (oz)	1218.50	1191.10	+2.30	-11.1
Copper (lb)	2.84	2.87	-1.36	-17.6
Palladium (oz)	818.60	807.80	+1.34	+14.1

AGRICULTURE	CLOSE	PVS.	%CH.	%YTD
Cattle (lb)	1.65	1.63	+1.38	+22.5
Coffee (lb)	1.69	1.70	-0.91	+52.3
Corn (bu)	4.15	4.08	+1.72	-1.7
Cotton (lb)	0.62	0.62	-0.24	-27.2
Lumber (1,000 bd ft)	338.50	338.90	-0.12	-6.0
Orange Juice (lb)	1.42	1.44	-1.50	+3.7
Soybeans (bu)	10.48	10.29	+1.82	-20.2
Wheat (bu)	6.11	6.12	-0.12	+0.9

Best Stocks One Month

BEST LARGE-CAP STOCKS

COMPANY	TICKER	FRIDAY CLOSE	%CHG 1WK	%CHG 1MO	%RTN 1YR	PE	YLD
Talisman Energy	TLM	7.85	...	+66.7	-31.0	22	...
Staples Inc	SPLS	17.98	+2.5	+27.9	+15.0	30	2.7
CarMax Inc	KMX	67.61	+0.4	+18.7	+42.0	27	...
Huaneng Power	HNP	55.36	+3.3	+15.8	+57.7	...	4.4
Red Hat Inc	RHT	71.09	+4.5	+14.4	+26.7	75	...
Royal Caribn	RCL	82.27	+2.1	+11.6	+75.9	25	1.5
Walgreen Co	WAG	76.46	+4.4	+11.4	+35.3	37	1.8
Biogen Idec Inc	BIIB	342.40	-5.1	+11.3	+21.5	32	...
Smith & Nephew PLC	SNN	38.52	+11.5	+11.0	+37.0	85	1.5
Corning Inc	GLW	23.32	+2.9	+10.9	+33.9	23	2.1
Enbridge Inc	ENB	50.98	+2.4	+10.9	+20.2	...	...
Ryanair Holdings	RYAAY	69.71	+1.5	+10.8	+47.9	...	...
Cheniere Energy	LNG	73.07	+3.8	+10.7	+62.3	dd	...
China Life Ins Co	LFC	57.95	+7.4	+10.6	+18.0	...	2.2
Skyworks Solution	SWKS	74.49	+2.5	+10.4	+165.9	31	0.7

BEST MID-CAP STOCKS

COMPANY	TICKER	FRIDAY CLOSE	%CHG 1WK	%CHG 1MO	%RTN 1YR	PE	YLD
Bluebird Bio Inc	BLUE	89.99	-2.2	+118.3	+323.1	dd	...
Auspex Pharma	ASPX	49.50	-7.3	+104.3	...	...	...
OvaScience Inc	OVAS	45.15	-5.6	+78.7	+375.8	dd	...
Radius Health Inc	RDUS	38.16	+19.1	+54.5	...	...	...
Tetraphase Pharm	TTPH	39.67	+5.8	+50.3	+193.7	dd	...
Spanion Inc	CODE	34.61	+4.5	+48.1	+159.0	dd	...
PDC Energy Inc	PDCE	43.63	+0.1	+47.8	-20.4	45	...
Juno Therapeutics	JUNO	48.73	+39.2	+39.2	...	...	...
Cypress Semi	CY	14.60	+1.9	+37.7	+45.6	30	3.0
Rite Aid Corp	RAD	7.41	+9.5	+35.2	+40.2	22	...
Office Depot	ODP	8.84	+2.2	+33.3	+62.6	dd	...
Synergy Resources Cp	SYRG	13.01	-0.7	+32.6	+42.1	35	...
Cubist Pharma	CBST	100.30	+1.7	+32.3	+49.2	cc	...
Diamond Offshore	DO	38.43	-1.5	+30.8	-24.9	11	1.3
M/A-COM Tech Solu	MTSI	32.17	+2.2	+29.6	+98.8	64	...

BEST SMALL-CAP STOCKS

COMPANY	TICKER	FRIDAY CLOSE	%CHG 1WK	%CHG 1MO	%RTN 1YR	PE	YLD
Advaxis Inc	ADXS	7.97	+42.1	+155.5	+81.5	...	...
Sorrento Therapeut	SRNE	9.50	+11.8	+146.8	+15.9	dd	...
Calithera Bioscience	CALA	22.34	-20.0	+109.4	...	...	...
Frontline Ltd	FRO	2.46	-5.7	+98.4	-35.7	dd	...
Pingtan Marine Ent	PME	2.36	+58.4	+96.7	-39.8	2	1.7
Actuate Corp	BIRT	6.60	+0.8	+83.3	-14.2	dd	...
Alder BioPharm	ALDR	28.21	-1.2	+72.9	...	...	...
Amer Apparel	APP	1.06	-0.9	+72.4	-8.6	dd	...
MOL Global Inc	MOLG	2.90	+3.6	+71.6	...	...	...
Paramount Gold&Silv	PZG	1.08	+14.9	+63.6	+6.6	18	...
Volcano Corp	VOLC	17.89	+0.1	+61.8	-16.9	dd	...
La Jolla Pharm	LJPC	17.94	-11.0	+61.2	+118.0	dd	...
Celladon Corp	CLDN	19.12	+2.7	+55.7	...	dd	...
Cempra Inc	CEMP	21.61	+1.4	+50.2	+53.9	dd	...
Fate Therapeutics	FATE	5.60	+6.3	+49.3	-28.2	dd	...

SONY

From page B4

moviemaking process, giving Sony Pictures an autonomy that allows the studio creative leeway. But in turn the Sony brand has not gotten much exposure through the films it produces.

“To be fair, I don’t think there has ever been that much of a synergy in the sense that a Sony picture has ever sold a Sony product in a meaningful way,” Thong said.

Twenty or 30 years ago, that didn’t matter so much. But now that Sony Corp.’s overall brand appeal has faded, it needs all the help it can get.

Sony Pictures has its ups and downs but has been a relatively strong performer in recent years, with hits like “American Hustle” and “22 Jump Street” adding to the studio’s brand value. For the fiscal year ended March 2014, Sony Pictures generated operating income of \$501 million on revenue of \$8.05 billion; its parent reported total operating income of \$257 million on sales and revenue of \$75.41 billion.

“Sony Pictures overall is quite important from a marketing relationship point of view, just because it’s one of the few properties now that is really getting people to see the Sony name anymore,” said Benjamin Cavender, a senior consumer electronics analyst at China Research Group in Shanghai.

Some of the frustration with this longstanding malaise boiled over last year when an activist investor, New York hedge fund manager Daniel Loeb, bought a 7 percent stake in the company and urged CEO Kazuo Hirai to spin off the entertainment division. Hirai didn’t, but Sony cut costs, laying off dozens of workers, to boost Sony Entertainment’s profits before Loeb sold his stake earlier this year.

Like many long-established companies that have been caught off guard by technological upheaval, Sony was still making too much money in its traditional lines of businesses to have the incentive to try something radically different, analysts

said.

In the meantime, a traditional tendency toward building consensus fostered bureaucratic obstacles between its various lines of business that make “it very difficult for anyone to integrate anything within the organization because people aren’t talking to each other and they’re not sharing information,” Cavender said.

“Sony is run like a group of silos,” agreed Wedbush Securities analyst Michael Pachter, who bought more than 8,000 shares of Sony stock after Loeb tried to shake things up. “I don’t think Sony was ever going to be the first mover (in entertainment’s digital shift), but being Japanese meant things moved a lot slower than they should have been. They could have been a lot more nimble.”

Instead, Sony has been outmaneuvered by technology companies that anticipated the changing trends. Apple introduced the iPod to accompany its iTunes music store followed up by the iPhone and iPad, devices that have become entertainment and information hubs. Google bought the video site YouTube in 2006 and then gave away its Android software to create the leading technology platform on mobile devices. Netflix has built the Internet’s biggest video subscription service by working with a wide variety of devices, including Sony’s PlayStation video game console. Amazon.com has been trying to orchestrate its own digital medley of devices, video, music and books.

Sony, meanwhile, is still struggling to serve both its home and global markets and to decide if it will stick with its television manufacturing business or spin it off entirely, focusing instead on more profitable areas such as imaging sensors, games and entertainment.

“It used to be that you’d see a Sony TV or Sony Walkman and think, “Man, Sony is the coolest product to have,” and that doesn’t exist to the same extent anymore,” Cavender said.

“It’s important that they handle what they do with Sony Pictures very carefully. From a marketing point of view, it means a lot.”

TOP STORIES

From page B4

replacing faulty switches that can shut down car engines. The U.S. Justice Department is investigating both companies.

6. MOBILE MOMENTUM: PC sales are slumping, but mobile phone subscriptions are expected to reach 7 billion this year – the same as the world’s population. Phone makers are launching cheaper smartphones aimed at developing countries, which could get billions more people online. Already, more than a billion people check Facebook on their phones and tablets. The social media giant spent \$22 billion on a phone messaging app, WhatsApp. Uber, a hail-a-cab app, is valued at \$40 billion. Apple Inc., the iPhone and iPad maker, launched a payment system that sidesteps cash and plastic.

7. STOCK MARKETS SOAR: Another year, another record. The end of the Federal Reserve’s bond-buying stimulus program stressed investors this fall, but U.S. stocks kept rising, extending the bull market run to nearly six years. More companies acquired each other and big companies bought up more than \$400 billion of their own stock, helping to put the Standard & Poor’s 500 index on pace for a 13 percent gain in 2014. And despite the end of the Fed’s bond purchases, which was expected to weigh on markets, bond prices rallied and rates dropped.

8. MINIMUM WAGE GROWTH: Inequality has been rising, and median household incomes have fallen since the recession began in late 2007. But the federal minimum hourly wage has remained at \$7.25 since 2009. Labor organizers, fast-food workers and

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. employees have campaigned for higher pay across the country. Congress hasn’t acted, but cities and states – and President Barack Obama – have. Obama raised pay by executive order for government contractors, to \$10.10 an hour. By Jan. 1, 29 states and Washington, D.C. will have a higher minimum wage than \$7.25. Seattle approved an increase to \$15 an hour, the highest rate in the country.

9. JANET YELLEN: The Federal Reserve had been led exclusively by men for a century. Then Janet Yellen, a 68-year-old former economics professor and the No. 2 at the Fed, became the first woman to lead the central bank. Plainspoken, with a trace of her native Brooklyn in her speech, Yellen criticizes inequality, focuses on jobs growth and has tried to demystify the moves of the notoriously opaque Fed. She has also tied the failure of most economists to predict the damages wrought by the financial crisis to a lack of diversity in the field. She says that increasing diversity is a priority at the central bank.

10. LET’S MAKE A DEAL: Higher stocks and confidence lifted global mergers and acquisitions volume to highest level since 2007. With a few days to go, global deal volume has risen 20 percent to \$3.41 trillion, including debt. Climbing markets make it easier to do stock deals, and borrowing is cheap. Meanwhile, initial public offerings had their biggest year since 2000. Health care companies made up 37 percent of all IPOs in the U.S., nearly double the level in 2013. And the biggest IPO ever, that of China’s e-commerce behemoth Alibaba Group Holding Ltd., raised \$25 billion in September.

Minnesota’s Pohlads acquire Polaroid majority

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Minnesota’s Pohlad family has acquired majority ownership of Polaroid in a \$70 million deal.

Minnetonka-based Polaroid is best known for making instant cameras but the name can be found on a variety of electronic goods, including tablets, cameras and flat-screen TVs. The company filed for bankruptcy protection in 2008 and most of its assets were sold to private investors the

following year but the bankruptcy estate still had a partial ownership stake in the company.

Last week, a federal bankruptcy judge approved selling that ownership stake to the Pohlads and an undisclosed partner, the Star Tribune reported. The Pohlad-owned Marquette Companies also acquired ownership from previous investors in Polaroid to gain control of about 65 percent of the company.

The transaction was completed Monday, the newspaper reported.

“We are doing this for three reasons,” Jann Ozzello Wilcox, the chief investment officer for Marquette Companies, said in a statement to the Star Tribune. “First, we continue to seek good, strategic growth opportunities; second, we see Polaroid as an iconic brand with a licensing model that’s working, and third, it’s a local company with a solid

management team.”

Polaroid CEO Scott Hardy said in a statement the deal will bring stable family capital to the Polaroid brand over the long term.

“This sale will be the next step in the ongoing resurgence of our iconic American brand and we are very excited about what it means for Polaroid in 2015 and beyond,” Hardy said.

Polaroid was founded in 1937 in Cambridge, Massachusetts.



Bob Wheeler, president and CEO of Airstream, sits in the back of an Airstream travel trailer at the Airstream factory in Jackson Center, Ohio, earlier this year.

AIRSTREAM

From page B4

jor expansion at the factory north of Dayton that eventually will increase production capacity by 50 percent.

The RV industry was dealt a body blow by the Great Recession but has rebounded with gusto. Shipments in 2014 are expected to be up more than 8 percent, following the best October in the industry in nearly 40 years. Production next year is expected to return to levels seen before the economy tanked.

Airstream – owned by the larger Indiana-based RV maker Thor Industries – is riding the wave, surging with three record years in a row. Wheeler says shipments now are about twice what they were during the best days before the recession.

Besides a better economy, Airstream is benefiting from a big bubble of Baby Boomers, many now choosing not to wait until their 60s to buy one, and a new wave of desire for the classic designs of America’s yesteryear – even if they command top dollar. New



Rick March, of Jackson Center, installs a bench in an Airstream travel trailer at the Airstream factory.

Airstreams run \$42,000 to \$140,000.

“For us, the Airstream just represented this beautiful piece of machinery, this beautiful design that other trailers and RVs don’t give you,” says 46-year-old Kate Gilbert. She and her husband, Iain, sold their house in San Diego this year and now live full time in their 27-foot solar panel-equipped Airstream, traveling the country.

Tara Cox, a 40-year-old magazine editor who wrote a book called “Airstream: The Silver RV,” notes the fandom bordering on fanaticism that the trailers inspire, besides the fact that

they cost more than other RVs, usually have less storage space and require more maintenance to keep the outside looking nice. She compares Airstream owners with Harley-Davidson riders who baby their bikes.

“It’s that labor of love,” she says.

Baby Boomers are still the heart of the demographic, but the company is actively reaching out to younger people, using social media to show them how an Airstream could fit their lifestyles. It’s also testing less-expensive, lighter and easier-to-tow designs that Wheeler says might be

“less intimidating” to younger buyers.

Airstream got an injection of hip recently when it collaborated with the Columbus College of Art and Design to plan and build a camper with a workspace and living area aimed at people in their 20s and 30s whose jobs allow them to work from anywhere. The company says the design elements – including a rear hatch that opens the convertible work area to the great outdoors – will be incorporated into future production models.

Meggin Hurlburt, a 34-year-old paralegal from San Diego, says the Airstream purchase was an investment in her family. She’s married with a 6-year-old son. She says the vintage look and the reputation for durability drew them in, even with the \$70,000-plus price tag.

“We didn’t want to wait until we were retired because we wanted to enjoy it now,” she says. “It’s not like the white box trailer that’s going to fall apart in 10 years. We bought this knowing we can give it to our son, and maybe he can give it to his children.”

ECONOMY

From page B4

Japan and Russia.

So what explained the U.S. economy’s resilience this year?

Economists say it largely reflected the delayed benefits of finally mending the damage from the worst downturn in nearly 80 years. Unlike past recoveries that enjoyed comparatively swift rebounds, this one proved agonizingly slow. It took 6½ years to regain all the jobs lost to the recession – 8.7 million – far longer than during previous recoveries.

“It was a healing process from a severe recession and the financial crisis,” said Richard Moody, chief economist at Regions Financial, a bank based in Alabama.

The healing isn’t complete. Wage growth remains lackluster and has barely outpaced extremely low inflation. Home building has been tepid.

But worries earlier this year that the economy might be trapped indefinitely by sluggish growth have largely faded. Here are the economic highlights of 2014:

Hiring boom

Employers added 2.65 million jobs over the first 11 months of the year, and the unemployment rate sank to 5.8 percent from 6.7 percent. When the government announces the December job data next month, the 2014 job total is expected to be just shy of 3 million – the most since the dot-com era in 1999. Compared with recent years, those gains have been less concentrated in lower-paying industries such as retail, food service and temp agencies.

“We’re finally entering that virtuous cycle phase of the expansion” when more jobs lead to higher incomes, which generates more consumer spending and growth, said Brett Ryan, an economist at Deutsche Bank.

Though average wage growth has been modest, the number of people with paychecks – and the ability to spend – has soared. If you exclude the economy’s winter-induced 2.1 percent annual contraction in the first quarter of the year, annualized growth has averaged 4.4 percent in four of the past five quarters. That’s far above the historic average of roughly 3.2 percent

in the decades after World War II.

Stocks surge

Stocks extended their bullish stampede of nearly six years. The Standard & Poor’s 500 index climbed about 13 percent this year, hitting record highs more than 50 times. If you bought the index at a market bottom in March 2009, you’ve basically tripled your money. Corporate mergers helped drive this year’s gains, along with major companies buying up \$400 billion-plus of their own stock.

Oil prices plunge

In a gift for U.S. consumers, energy got significantly cheaper. Crude oil prices were essentially cut in half from this year’s high. The slowing economies in Europe and Asia curbed demand, while production remained steady. The price decline trickled down to gasoline pumps. Average prices nationwide dropped to \$2.32 a gallon, down roughly a dollar from a year ago, according to AAA. Some of that price slowdown has hurt U.S. oil producers, which must weigh layoffs. But overall, cheaper oil is a positive. Federal Reserve Chair Ja-

net Yellen noted that the falling prices resemble a tax cut, generating savings for consumers that can be spent elsewhere to drive economic growth.

Autos sales up

Far more Americans splurged on a new car after having held onto aging vehicles during the recession and slow early stages of the recovery. Sales were on track to increase 6 percent this year, with 16.5 million new vehicles on the road, according to Cars.com. That would be the best sales pace since 2006.

Interest rates drop

Even as the economy has strengthened – usually a sign that interest rates will rise – it’s become easier to borrow. More loans mean more spending and faster growth. Rates have declined even though the Fed ended its program to stimulate growth by buying billions in Treasury and mortgage bonds each month.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note has slipped to about 2.27 percent from 3 percent when the year began. The average 30-year fixed mortgage is 3.83 percent, down from roughly 4.5 percent a year ago.



COLLEGE NOTES

May putting up points for Delaware State hoops

By HP STAFF

Covert graduate Amere May is having an impressive season for the Delaware State men's basketball team.

May, a senior, leads the Hornets with 19.1 points per game. He scored 32 points to lead Delaware State to a 72-65 upset win over Wake Forest on Nov. 28, then scored 48 points in a 72-64 victory over St. Francis Brooklyn on Dec. 17.

May has twice been selected as the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Player of the Week this sea-

son.

May spent his first two college seasons at Delaware State, then transferred and played last season at Division II St. Augustine's University in North Carolina.

In an article in the Delaware State News, May said he decided to return to the Hornets when Keith Walker, who had recruited him, was promoted to head coach.

Hanau to wrestle at West Point

Lakeshore's Noah Hanau has committed to wrestle for the United States Military Academy next season.

Hanau is unbeaten this season at 140 pounds. He placed fourth at 135 pounds at the Division 2 state finals in 2013. Last season, he had a 43-5 record and won conference, district and regional titles.

Williams leading Lake Superior State

Benton Harbor graduate Alex Williams has led the Lake Superior State men's basketball team to a 9-1 start this season.

Williams, a senior, leads the Lakers in scoring with 13.7 points

per game. He scored his 1,000th career point in the Lakers' season-opening victory over Truman on Nov. 14.

Williams is also fourth on the team in both rebounds (4.5 per game) and assists (2 per game).

Sutton playing for Alabama A&M

Benton Harbor graduate Nashaye Sutton is a freshman on the Division I Alabama A&M women's basketball team.

Sutton has appeared in all 10 games for the Bulldogs this season,

averaging 4.8 points per game.

Peirce earns All-GLIAC mention

St. Joseph graduate Lindsay Peirce, a junior on the Hillsdale College tennis team, earned All-GLIAC honorable mention for the second straight season.

Peirce had an 8-4 singles record, playing at the No. 3 and No. 4 singles spots. She also played No. 2 doubles with Dana Grace Buck, and the pair compiled an 8-1 record.

College Notes appear periodically during the school year. Send information about local college athletes to sports@TheHP.com.

Report: Harbaugh expected to take U-M job



San Francisco 49ers head coach Jim Harbaugh walks off the field after the 49ers lost to the San Diego Chargers on Dec. 20. Reports suggest Harbaugh has agreed to become the next head football coach at the University of Michigan.

Coach's 'shtick' may work better on college athletes than pros, source says

By CAM INMAN
San Jose Mercury News (TNS)

SANTA CLARA, Calif. - Jim Harbaugh could be going back to school.

Once he coaches the 49ers for an apparent final time Sunday against the Arizona Cardinals, Harbaugh is expected to accept an offer to coach his alma mater, the University of Michigan, according to Bleacher Report's Jason Cole.

Michigan officials are believed to be in the Bay Area to formally

present a six-year, \$48 million offer to Harbaugh, who's finishing out the fourth year of a five-year deal with the 49ers.

"That's what everybody on staff believes is going to happen this week," a source said in the Bleacher Report article, which cited two of Harbaugh's assistants and a league source.

"Jim has figured out that his style is best-suited for the college game. His shtick works better with young guys who are gone after three or four years."

The Raiders, however, are ex-

pected to make a bid for Harbaugh once the 49ers (7-8) wrap up their season against the Arizona Cardinals (11-4). Other NFL openings also could occur and bring more suitors for the 51-year-old coach.

While with the 49ers, Harbaugh's regular-season winning percentage (.697) ranks fourth-best among those who've coached in the Super Bowl era, behind only John Madden (.763), Vince Lombardi (.738) and George Allen (.712).

Harbaugh's reign with the

49ers has included two NFC West titles, three NFC Championship games, a Super Bowl berth and an overall record of 48-22-1, including a 43-19-1 mark in the regular season.

Despite such early success, Harbaugh and 49ers CEO Jed York could not agree on a raise nor extend his contract beyond 2015. Contract talks were tabled prior to this season, which both sides agreed to be a boom-or-bust year for a franchise that now

See HARBAUGH, page C4

Lions to play for NFC North today

By GENARO C. ARMAS
AP Sports Writer

GREEN BAY, Wis. — The Detroit Lions are so close to ending a two-decade stretch without a division title.

The Green Bay Packers have been so good that it's a surprise when they don't win the NFC North.

Upstarts vs. standard-bearers. Tackle Ndamukong Suh and one of the league's top defenses against quarterback Aaron Rodgers and the potent Packers offense. The winner of Sunday's showdown between Detroit and Green Bay at Lambeau Field takes the NFC North championship and a first-round bye in the playoffs.

Both teams (11-4) are already guaranteed postseason berths. But the loser gets relegated to a road game next week as a wild card.

The winner gets some needed rest and a guaranteed home game in two weeks. That's considered a huge advantage in the postseason.

"Yeah, there's a lot on the line. It's an opportunity to win our fourth straight division title, which would be pretty sweet. We get a chance for a bye, which would be great to get some rest for all of us," Rodgers said. "A home playoff game is the most important thing; that's what we play for every year."

According to the Packers, this will be the first time that teams each with 11 wins will play in a regular-season finale to determine a division champion since Dallas and the New York Giants met in 1993. The Cowboys won that game — and went on to win the Super Bowl.

That year is also the last time Detroit won a division title. This often-forlorn franchise has been to the postseason just once since 2000, a 45-28 loss to New Orleans

See LIONS, page C4

Former players urge Harbaugh to take Michigan job

By MARK SNYDER
Detroit Free Press (TNS)

As Anthony Carter gathered with his former teammates in Florida on Nov. 29, they were facing reality.

Gathering to watch the Michigan-Ohio State game, they shared one of the most disappointing seasons in modern U-M history winding down.

So they reached out to a Michigan hero of Ohio State games past and reminded Jim Harbaugh how much he meant to them, and U-M.

Putting Harbaugh on speakerphone, the group

reminisced.

"We just basically talked about old times," Carter, a three-time All-America receiver who played at U-M from 1979 to 1982, recalled this week. "What it is for me, talking about old times. It wasn't so much about coming and joining Michigan football because we know he's the football coach for the San Francisco 49ers. But he knows deep down inside that former players want him to come back."

"It let him know that everybody followed the university and still cared about the university as well."

Michigan still employed



I called his cell phone last week and let him know I/we need him to come back and turn this program around.

BILLY TAYLOR
Former Michigan running back

coach Brady Hoke for a few days, eventually firing him Dec. 2, but even during that Ohio State game, the end was near.

Once Hoke was gone, there was no more dancing around the Harbaugh issue.

Over the past few weeks, the Michigan football fam-

ily has executed a full-court press to bring the 49ers coach back to Ann Arbor.

Through a series of phone calls, text messages and emails, dozens of former U-M football players have reached out to Harbaugh over the past few weeks - some who know him personally, many sharing only

the bond of playing at Michigan - trying to sway him.

Nothing about U-M's pursuit has been normal, so throwing in a bevy of additional voices simply fits that pattern. Rarely do so many former players at a school focus on and seek out a candidate.

"I called his cell phone last week and let him know I/we need him to come back and turn this program around," said Billy Taylor, Michigan's All-Big Ten running back in 1969-71.

Harbaugh and Taylor don't speak regularly but have known each other for

years. They exchanged texts, with Harbaugh appreciating the sentiment.

The contacts have spanned the Michigan football generations.

Some of the effort was coordinated, some of it was the spirit moving individuals and some of it was the Wolverines trying to sway him however they could.

"Michigan guys, they have a strong bond with each other, when you played here, you know what you've been through," said Jamie Morris, who was Michigan's lead running back -

See PLAYERS, page C4

IN BRIEF

Big first quarter boosts Admirals

ST. JOSEPH — The Lake Michigan Admirals used a 37-18 first quarter advantage to carry them to a 117-110 victory over the Indianapolis Diesels on Saturday at Lake Michigan Catholic High School. Nicholas Waddell had 23 points and 13 rebounds to pace the Admirals (4-1). Nate Barfield had 17 points and 11 rebounds, Tim Johnson had 16 points, Courtney Blackmore 14 and Graciano Negron 12 points for Lake Michigan, which led 56-48 at half-time. Dawon's 37 points led the Diesels (1-3).

Oakland falls to No. 15 Maryland

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (AP) — Jake Layman had 15 points and 12 rebounds to help No. 15 Maryland extend its winning streak to five games with a 72-56 victory over Oakland on Saturday. Freshman Melo Trimble was 5 of 6 from 3-point range and had 17 points for Maryland (12-1).

Jalen Hayes scored 13 points and Kahliil Felder added 12 for Oakland (4-10). Dante Williams and Corey

Sam: Coming out was right thing to do

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Michael Sam says in a TV documentary airing Saturday night that coming out as gay was the right thing to do. The Oprah Winfrey Network said in a release that the 90-minute program followed by a one-on-one with Winfrey and Sam was the player's first TV appearance since being cut by the Dallas Cowboys in mid-October. After one day of filming last spring, the Rams pulled the plug on the network's plans for a Sam documentary during training camp. In a transcript released by the network, Sam called the NFL draft "the longest three days of my life." The St. Louis Rams drafted Sam late in the seventh round. The Rams made Sam, the co-defensive player of the year at Missouri, the 249th overall pick out of 256 in the draft.

LOCAL SPORTS CALENDAR

Benton Harbor-St. Joseph YMCA

Adult fitness classes: YMCA adult fitness classes can be joined at any time. Aerobic classes include Step Cardio, Tabata Boot Camp, Interval Blast, Kickbox Cardio, Dance It Out and Zumba. Strength classes include Abs and More, Body Pump, Body Sculpting and Core Challenge. Mind/body classes include Barre Trilogy, Mind/Body Balance, Pilates, Tai Chi and Yoga. Older adult classes include Zumba Gold, Gentle Yoga and Sit & Be Fit. **Aqua fitness classes:** Three low intensity and five medium/high intensity programs are offered. Aqua fitness punch cards are available, with 10 punches for \$45. **Racquetball private lessons:** Lessons with racquetball coordinator Clint Thompson are available. Cost is \$25 for two lessons. **Adult racquetball league:** Three leagues are offered,

based upon ability. Registration is open until Jan. 2. For more information, contact Clint Thompson at 428-9622. Cost is \$25 for members, \$40 for non-members. **Adult volleyball league:** Three leagues are offered, based upon ability. Leagues run Jan. 13-April 14. Cost is \$17 for members, \$37 for non-members. **Lifeguard training:** 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Wednesday. Cost is \$200 for members, \$250 for non-members. Call 428-9622 to register. For more information on any YMCA programs, go to www.bhsjymca.org, stop by at 3665 Hollywood Road, or call 428-9622. **South Shore Health & Racquet Club** **TRX classes:** Tuesdays, 9 a.m., and Thursdays, 9:45 a.m. Punch cards are available, which include 10 classes for \$7 per class.

Pickleball: Open to the public Friday and Saturday mornings from 9-11 a.m. Cost is \$2 for members, \$6 for non-members or \$10 for non-member couple. A limited number of racquets are available to borrow. **Water fitness classes:** Classes offered include Aqua Yoga, Maximum Liquid, Body Call Back and Senior Splash. Punch cards are available which include 10 classes at \$6 per class. For more information or to register for any South Shore classes, call 429-2101. **Renaissance Athletic Club** **New Year, New You:** Class to help kick start fitness resolutions consists of muscle strength, endurance training and cardiovascular training. Cost is \$250 for the eight-week program. **Holiday Pass:** One-month holiday passes can be purchased now through Jan. 15 for only \$50. Includes over 30

group exercise classes, yoga, pool usage and more. **New classes:** New group classes starting in January include 20/20/20, Kardio Kickboxing, R-30, Bosu Step n Sculpt, Group Ride, TRX and Come n Go Cycling. For more information on any RAC programs, call the front desk at 927-1129. **Watervliet Athletic Boosters** **Run Frosty Run 5K run/walk and 10K run:** 10 a.m. Saturday, Watervliet North Elementary School. Same-day registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Register online at <http://www.swmiracers.org/2015runfrostyrun>. Cost is \$20 ages 18 and up, \$15 ages 17 and under. Prices increase \$5 on race day.

The local sports calendar appears twice weekly in The Herald-Palladium. Submit items for the local sports calendar to sports@TheHP.com or fax to 429-4392.

AIRWAVES

Television today

7:00 a.m. (NBCSports) English Premier League Soccer Tottenham Hotspur FC vs Manchester United FC. (Live) **9:00 a.m. (NBCSports) English Premier League Soccer** Southampton FC vs Chelsea FC. (Live) **11:15 a.m. (NBCSports) English Premier League Soccer** Newcastle United FC vs Everton FC. (Live) **12:00 p.m. (FS1) College Basketball** Tulane at St. John's. (Live) **1:00 p.m. (2) (3) NFL Football** San Diego Chargers at Kansas City Chiefs. (Live) **(17) (28) (32) NFL Football** Chicago Bears at Minnesota Vikings. (Live) **(22) NFL Football** Indianapolis Colts at Tennessee Titans. (Live) **(ESPN) PBA Bowling** Chameleon Championship. From Las Vegas. (Taped) **(ESPN2) Billiards** Trick Shot Magic. (Taped) **2:00 p.m. (FS1) College Basketball** Morgan State at Marquette. (Live) **4:00 p.m. (Bigten) Women's College Basketball** Michigan at Wisconsin. (Live) **(ESPN) 2014 World Series of Poker** From Las Vegas. **(FS1) College Basketball** Florida Gulf Coast at Xavier. (Live) **(NBCSports) College Basketball** Wake Forest at Richmond. (Live) **4:25 p.m. (2) (3) NFL Football** Carolina Panthers at Atlanta Falcons. (Live) **(17) (28) (32) NFL Football** Detroit Lions at Green Bay Packers. (Live) **(22) NFL Football** Oakland Raiders at Denver Broncos. (Live) **4:30 p.m. (FoxDetroit) NBA Basketball** Detroit Pistons at Cleveland Cavaliers. (Live) **5:00 p.m. (5) (8) (16) Equestrian** Rolex Grand Slam. From Geneva. (Taped) **(ESPN) 2014 World Series of Poker** Final Table. From Las Vegas. **6:00 p.m. (FS1) College Basketball** Belmont at Butler. (Live)

8:00 p.m. (Bigten) College Basketball Buffalo at Wisconsin. (Live) **(ESPN2) 2014 World Series of Poker** From Las Vegas. **8:20 p.m. (5) (8) (16) NFL Football** Cincinnati Bengals at Pittsburgh Steelers. (Live) **Monday** **2:00 p.m. (ESPN) College Football** AutoZone Liberty Bowl — Texas A&M vs. West Virginia. (Live) **3:00 p.m. (NBCSports) English Premier League Soccer** Liverpool FC vs Swansea City AFC. (Live) **5:30 p.m. (ESPN) College Football** Russell Athletic Bowl — Clemson vs. Oklahoma. (Live) **7:00 p.m. (9B) NBA Basketball** Chicago Bulls at Indiana Pacers. (Live) **(Bigten) Women's College Basketball** Ohio State at Maryland. (Live) **(ESPN2) College Basketball** Toledo at Duke. (Live) **(FoxDetroit) (NBCSports) NHL Hockey** Detroit Red Wings at Boston Bruins. (Subject to blackout) (Live) **8:30 p.m. (Csnch) NHL Hockey** Nashville Predators at Chicago Blackhawks. (Live) **9:00 p.m. (Bigten) Women's College Basketball** Nebraska at Minnesota. (Live) **(ESPN) College Football** AdvoCare V100 Texas Bowl — Arkansas vs. Texas. (Live) **(ESPN2) Women's College Basketball** Duke at Connecticut. (Live)

Radio today

1 p.m. NFL — Bears at Vikings (WBBM-AM, 780) **4:25 p.m. NFL** — Lions at Packers (WSJM-AM, 1400; WCSY-FM, 103.7) **Monday** **7 p.m. NBA** — Bulls at Pacers (WMVP-AM, 1000) **8:30 p.m. NHL** — Predators at Blackhawks (WGN-AM, 720)

Austin Bornheim
Sports Writer
abornheim@TheHP.com
429-2400 ext. 222

HOMETOWN HEROES

The Herald-Palladium will recognize exceptional results by local youth and recreational groups. Photos must be in focus and every person in the photo must be identified for publication. Teams are limited to one appearance a season and/or calendar year.



The Stevensville Red Hots fifth-grade girls travel basketball team recently completed its regular season with a 24-3 record, including a league championship and a tournament runner-up finish. Front row, left: Jossalyn Schmaltz, Riley Pifer, Lanie Gage and Gianna Kerschbaum. Back row, left: Coach Ken Schmaltz, Jayden Schmaltz, Anna Chellman, Isabella Chavez and Maddie deBest.

No. 1 Kentucky gets past No. 4 Louisville

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Tyler Ulis shook off a bloody cut by his right eye to score 12 key second-half points and lead top-ranked Kentucky to a hard-fought 58-50 victory over No. 4 Louisville on Saturday. An inadvertent elbow by Louisville's Chris Jones in the first half left Ulis with two thin bandages. He hit two big 3-pointers to give the Wildcats (13-0) a cushion in this showdown between unbeaten Bluegrass State rivals.

38 lead with 4:43 left. Towns had 10 points and nine rebounds for Kentucky, which held Louisville (11-1) to 26 percent shooting.

CONTACT US

The Herald-Palladium sports desk is staffed after 7 p.m. nightly. Coaches or managers are asked to report results as soon as possible the evening of the event for publication in the next day's edition.

Phone numbers
(269) 429-1294
(800) 356-4262 ext. 294

Fax number
(269) 429-4392

Email address for reporting results
sports@TheH-P.com

Sports staff

Jason Mitchell
Sports Editor
jmitchell@TheHP.com
429-2400 ext. 749

Ben Sanders
Sports Writer
bsanders@TheHP.com
429-2400 ext. 220

OPEN:
T,W - 10am - 5pm
TH - 10am - 7pm
FRI - 10am - 5pm
SAT - 9am - 4pm

Class III Dealer

269-235-9305
www.blackarsenal.com

- Firearms
- Firearm Accessories
- Ammunition
- Optics
- Knives
- Survival/Tactical Gear
- Silencers

5711 St. Joseph Ave • Stevensville, MI

Located Behind St. Joseph Ave, near Stevensville Station

CLOSSON'S Auto Center

FREE Estimates

FREE 25 pt. Inspection w/ any service

Seniors **10% OFF**

COMPLETE AUTO SERVICE \$21.95 plus tax
w/ coupon exp 12/31/14 hp

FRONT END ALIGNMENT \$39.95
By Appt. w/ coupon exp 12/31/14 hp

5 POINT WINTER CHECK \$7.95
By Appt. w/ coupon exp 12/31/14 hp

Tire Rotation with oil change \$7.50
w/ coupon exp 12/31/14 hp

We service cars, RV's, Semi-Trucks & more. All Classes - Gas & Diesel

- Licensed & Insured • Brakes & Suspension
- Transmission & Engines • Front end alignments
- Radiator & cooling systems • On site fleet repair
- Electrical Systems • AC • Tires & balance
- Hydraulic systems • Engine Diagnostics

32 years Serving the Community

1860 Pipestone Rd, Benton Harbor, MI 269-925-8321

"Located inside the Orchard Mall" (In the old Sears)
Costs may vary for some makes & models

LIMIT ONE COUPON PER CUSTOMER, MAY NOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER OFFER

2015 PILOT

\$269 per mo
36 month lease \$2499 due at signing

2WD LX AT
0.9% APR
up to 36 months

18 CTY 25 HWY

Tyler Honda

New - Pre-Owned Certified Vehicles
SALES • SERVICE • PARTS

4356 Red Arrow Hwy • Stevensville
269-926-6181

www.tylershonda.com



Fred Chartrand / AP
Detroit's Justin Abdelkader (8) celebrates his goal with teammate Henrik Zetterberg (40) as Ottawa Senators' Cody Ceci (5) skates past during the first period of Saturday's game.

Nyquist lifts Wings in overtime

OTTAWA, Ontario (AP) — Gustav Nyquist scored at 4:12 of overtime to lift the Detroit Red Wings to a 3-2 win over the Ottawa Senators on Saturday night.

Nyquist circled the Senators' net, carrying the puck around their zone for 10-12 seconds before launching a shot from the slot for the game winner.

The Red Wings (19-8-9) got their other goals from Justin Abdelkader and Henrik Zetterberg, but it was the work of netminder Jimmy Howard and his 31 saves that avoided a Detroit loss in regulation. He stopped Ottawa's Erik Karlsson on a breakaway early in the overtime period to help keep the game tied.

Mike Hoffman and Clarke MacArthur scored in regulation for the Senators (14-14-7) while Craig Anderson turned aside 24 shots.

Some credit also goes to Zetterberg who tied the game at 3:58 of the third period, just three seconds after Ottawa defenseman Mark Borowiecki took an interference penalty.

Pavel Datsyuk won the faceoff back to Niklas Kronwall at the point who then sent the puck along the blueline to Zetterberg who fired a shot past Anderson.

The Senators controlled play early on as they were in Detroit's end for most of the opening two minutes, but a penalty in the offensive zone cost them. The Red Wings were unable to capitalize on their early play and the game's first goal didn't come until Hoffman chipped a rebound over top of Howard and in at 13:41 after the Red Wings' netminder made the original point shot from Mark Borowiecki.

It looked as though the Senators were going to take a 1-0 lead into the first intermission after controlling

the play much of the first period, but Detroit tied the game with just 14 seconds left in the period.

Zetterberg took a shot that went wide but the puck hit the end boards on a perfect angle as it went right onto the stick of Abdelkader who was parked on the other side of the net and quickly put a backhand past Anderson.

Ottawa continued to control the game in the second period as it outshot the Red Wings 25-13 through two periods, but more importantly took a 2-1 lead into the third period.

Notes: Chris Phillips was the lone scratch for Ottawa while Daniel Cleary, Joakim Andersson and Brian Lashoff were scratches for the Red Wings. ... Saturday's game was the 32nd all-meeting between Detroit and Ottawa. ... Mike Hoffman leads the Senators with seven goals at home. ... The Red Wings lead the NHL with 33 power-play goals.

Devils to be tri-coached

By STEVE ZIPAY
Newsday (TNS)

A bizarre season continues for the New Jersey Devils.

Not only was coach Peter DeBoer relieved of his duties Friday and replaced behind the bench Saturday by team president and general manager Lou Lamoriello and a pair of co-coaches, but three more Devils were confirmed with mumps, bringing their total to five.

DeBoer, who was hired in July 2011, was notified Friday by Lamoriello that the team's 12-17-7 record wasn't cutting it.

Strangely, Lamoriello did not immediately announce who would replace DeBoer until Saturday, and when

he did, it was an unusual trio.

Lamoriello stole a page from football's playbook, essentially choosing temporary offensive and defensive coordinators.

Former Devils defenseman Scott Stevens was assigned to oversee the defense, former Devils center and ex-Capitals coach Adam Oates will control the offense, and Lamoriello temporarily will provide guidance behind the bench.

"It's certainly been a very interesting last 48 hours," Lamoriello said. "I tried to come up with what was, in my opinion, the best way of getting our team to do certain things and getting the most out of the personnel

we have. Scott will be running the defense. Adam will be running the forwards. For a short period of time, I will go on the bench just, to myself, find out a little bit more about our players, about some of their habits and what is transpiring. I know this is a unique way."

Neither Stevens nor Oates has a title, and Lamoriello said he did not contact any other coaches on the market. His intention, he said, is to have a single coach next season.

"I'm not looking at the past and I'm not looking at the future right now," Lamoriello said. "What I'm looking at is us taking one game at a time and being the best team we can possibly be."

AREA SCHEDULE

Monday
Girls basketball
Bridgman Inv.— Watervliet vs. Bridgman, 7:30 p.m.
Boys basketball
Countryside at Hartford, 7:30 p.m.
Brandywine at White Pigeon Holiday Inv.,
Tuesday
Girls basketball
Eau Claire at Climax Scotts, 2 p.m.
Watervliet at Bridgman Inv.
Boys basketball
Eau Claire at Climax Scotts, 3:30 p.m.
Coloma at Buchanan, 7 p.m.
Brandywine at White Pigeon Holiday Inv.
Countryside at Lawrence, 7 p.m.
Friday 1-2
Girls basketball
Coloma at Buchanan, 7:30 p.m.
Boys basketball
Covert at Dream Academy, 7:30 p.m.
Junior college basketball
Muskegon at Lake Michigan Catholic

Women, 5:30 p.m.
Muskegon at Lake Michigan College Men, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday Jan. 3
Girls basketball
Lou Harvey Great Lakes Classic (at Benton Harbor:
Brandywine vs. Robichaud, noon; South Bend Washington vs. Benton Harbor, 7:30 p.m.
Niles at Three Rivers, 7 p.m.
Michigan Lutheran at Mendon, 7:30 p.m.
Bridgman at River Valley, 7:30 p.m.
Boys basketball
Lakeshore at Edwardsburg, 4 p.m.
Michigan Lutheran at Illinois Lutheran, 6:30 p.m.
Wrestling
South Haven at Wyoming Inv., 9 a.m.
Cassopolis, Fairhaven Baptist, Fennville, Hartford, New Buffalo, Watervliet at Berrien Springs Inv., 9 a.m.
Brandywine at Hillsdale Inv., 9 a.m.
Eau Claire at Union City, 9 a.m.
Bangor at Climax-Scotts, 9 a.m.

Lakeshore at Allendale Inv., 9:30 a.m.
Coloma, River Valley at Gobles Inv., 9:30 a.m.
Boys swimming
South Haven Inv., 9 a.m.
Competitive cheer
St. Joseph at Bulldog Inv., (at Grandville), 2 p.m.
Hockey
Lakeshore-St. Joseph at Kalamazoo,
Sunday Jan. 4
Hockey
HSE at Lakeshore-St. Joseph, 10:50 a.m.
Monday Jan. 5
Girls basketball
Bridgman at South Haven, 7:15 p.m.
New Buffalo at River Valley, 7:30 p.m.
Boys basketball
Brandywine at Lake Michigan Catholic, 7:30 p.m.
Competitive cheer
Cheer by the Pier 2 at St. Joseph, 6 p.m.

EARL MCKEE HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT



Jody Warner / HP correspondent
Benton Harbor's Roy Anderson, right, takes a shot over Paw Paw's Collin Siwula during the championship game of the Earl McKee Holiday Basketball Tournament at Benton Harbor High School. Benton Harbor won 70-55. A complete story from the game can be found online at www.TheHP.com. Complete results were unavailable at deadline. Bridgman won the consolation game 52-46 in double overtime over New Buffalo.

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

Comstock Invitational Buchanan 10th of 17 teams. Buchanan plaers — 3. Matt Strozewski 119, 3. Adam Eger 125, 3. Colin Wheatley 140.	DIVISION 4 1. New Lothrop, 2. Hudson, 3. Lawton, 4. Hesperia, 5. Decatur , 6. Springport, 7. Manchester, 8. Addison, 9. Carson City Crystal, 10. Bronson..	140 - 9. Collin Wheetley, Buchanan. Hwt - 1. Tristan Howard, Dowagiac.
Team rankings Following is Michigan Grappler's Dec.26 state high school wrestling team rankings:	Individual rankings Michigan Grappler's Dec. 26 statewide high school individual rankings. (Area wrestlers only) DIVISION 2 112 - 2. Austin Franco, Lakeshore; 4. Mike Higley, Edwardsburg. 119 - 3. Josh Dayhuff, Niles. 135 - 2. Noah Hanau, Lakeshore; 3. Warren Smith, Niles; 4. Noah Hall, Niles. 140 - 10. Robert Dente, Lakeshore. 152 - 1. Connor Myers, St. Joseph. 160 - 9. Fred Kemp, Niles. 171 - 10. Sean Craig, Niles. 215 - 6. Ted Jackowiak, Niles; 10. Isaac Weir, Lakeshore. Hwt - 8. Alex Bata, Niles. DIVISION 3 103 - 5. Garrett Cleveland, Berrien Springs.	DIVISION 4 112 - 8. Jacob Chapman, Lawton; 10. Josh Rukus, Bangor. 119 - 3. Julian Torres, Lawton; 5. Jeremiah Durian, Bloomingdale; 8. David Helmuth, Decatur; 9. Maher Ramirez, Bangor. 125 - 8. Ishmael Hodge, Bangor; 9. Ethan May, Decatur. 130 - 6. Pat Lynch, Watervliet; 7. Savion Willis, Bangor. 135 - 1. Kyle Barkovitch, Lawton; 7. Lucian Parish, Decatur. 140 - 2. Cole Menck, Lawton; 8. Elijah Luth, Decatur. 145 - 1. Hunter Bell, Decatur; 10. Jacob Gray, Lawton. 152 - 2. Chris O'Donnell, Lawton. 160 - 10. ChrisLawson, Gobles. 171 - 8. Bert Saldana, Hartford. 189 - 1. Brody Conner, Lawton; 4. Cole Southworth, Decatur; 5. Devon Koziel, Bangor. 215 - 4. Weston DeHaven, Watervliet; 6. Austin Kennedy, Decatur. Hwt - 2. Logan Kennedy, Decatur.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Saturday's Scores
BOYS
Detroit East English 90, Southfield 78
Detroit King 61, Harper Woods Chandler Park Academy 36
Detroit Osborn 58, Harper Woods 43
Detroit Western International 69, Westland John Glenn 47
Grand Rapids Christian 66, Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northen 51
Grand Rapids Ottawa Hills 65, Jackson 55
Kalamazoo Central 60, Lansing Everett 54
Millington 61, Vassar 45
Morley-Stanwood 68, Kingsley 42
Wayland Union 48, Hudsonville 36

Motor City Roundball Classic
Ashland, Ohio 70, Troy 55
Detroit Catholic Central 40, Southfield Bradford Academy 32
Grand Rapids Union 57, Cin. Withdraw, Ohio 42
Melvindale Academy for Business And Tech 65, Dearborn Heights Robichaud 56
Okemos 71, Troy Athens 66
Tol. Rogers, Ohio 60, Grand Rapids Union 54

GIRLS
Clio 60, Burton Atherton 22
Detroit King 75, Crete-Monee, Ill. 52
Oxford 30, Pontiac Notre Dame Prep 12
Rochester 40, Warren Woods Tower 30
Warren Cusino 57, Dexter 44
Motor City Roundball Classic
Day, Carroll, Ohio 62, Grosse Pointe South 57
Detroit Country Day 41, Muskegon Mona Shores 21
Flint Powers 44, Williamston 39
Grand Rapids Catholic Central 58, Harper Woods Chandler Park Academy 28

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Saturday's men's scores
EAST
Georgetown 91, Indiana 87, OT
Seton Hall 72, Maine 43
SOUTH
Georgia 86, Mercer 77, 30T
Jacksonville 75, Jacksonville St. 61
Kentucky 58, Louisville 56
Maryland 72, Oakland 56
North Carolina 89, UAB 58
Virginia Tech 87, Presbyterian 65
W. Kentucky 89, Brescia 42
MIDWEST
Green Bay 78, Georgia St. 61
Minnesota 108, UNC Wilmington 82
Northwestern 76, N. Kentucky 55
Ohio St. 100, Wright St. 55
FAR WEST
Gonzaga 87, BYU 80
IUPUI 55, Pepperdine 53
Saint Mary's (Cal) 73, Santa Clara 60
San Francisco 77, Pacific 71

NFL

All Times EST						
AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-New England	12	3	0	.800	459	296
Miami	8	7	0	.533	364	336
Buffalo	8	7	0	.533	326	280
N.Y. Jets	3	12	0	.200	246	377
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Indianapolis	10	5	0	.667	431	359
Houston	8	7	0	.533	349	290
Jacksonville	3	12	0	.200	232	389
Tennessee	2	13	0	.133	244	411
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Cincinnati	10	4	1	.700	348	317
x-Pittsburgh	10	5	0	.667	409	351
Baltimore	9	6	0	.600	389	292
Cleveland	7	8	0	.467	289	317
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Denver	11	4	0	.733	435	340
San Diego	9	6	0	.600	341	329
Kansas City	8	7	0	.533	334	274
Oakland	3	12	0	.200	239	405

NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Dallas	11	4	0	.733	423	335
Philadelphia	9	6	0	.600	440	374
N.Y. Giants	6	9	0	.400	354	366
Washington	4	11	0	.267	284	394
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Carolina	6	8	1	.433	305	371
Atlanta	6	9	0	.400	378	383
New Orleans	6	9	0	.400	378	404
Tampa Bay	2	13	0	.133	257	387
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Detroit	11	4	0	.733	301	252
x-Green Bay	11	4	0	.733	456	328
Minnesota	6	9	0	.400	312	334
Chicago	5	10	0	.333	310	429

	West					
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Seattle	11	4	0	.733	374	248
A-Arizona	11	4	0	.733	293	279
San Francisco	7	8	0	.467	286	323
St. Louis	6	9	0	.400	318	334
x-clinched playoff spot						
y-clinched division						
Today's games						
Indianapolis at Tennessee, 1 p.m.						
Jacksonville at Houston, 1 p.m.						
San Diego at Kansas City, 1 p.m.						
Chicago at Minnesota, 1 p.m.						
Cleveland at Baltimore, 1 p.m.						
Dallas at Washington, 1 p.m.						
N.Y. Jets at Miami, 1 p.m.						
Buffalo at New England, 1 p.m.						
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.						
New Orleans at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.						
Arizona at San Francisco, 4:25 p.m.						
St. Louis at Seattle, 4:25 p.m.						
Oakland at Denver, 4:25 p.m.						
Detroit at Green Bay, 4:25 p.m.						
Carolina at Atlanta, 4:25 p.m.						
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, 8:30 p.m.						

AFC Individual Leaders										
Week 16										
Quarterbacks										
	Att	Com	Yds	TD	Int					
Roethlisberger, PIT	570	384	4635	30	8					
P. Manning, DEN	560	374	4454	39	15					
Brady, NE	566	365	4029	33	9					
P. Rivers, SND	536	359	3995	31	16					
Luck, IND	600	370	4601	38	16					
Fitzpatrick, HOU	312	197	2483	17	8					
Ale. Smith, KAN	464	303	3265	18	6					
Tannehill, MIA	551	369	3786	26	12					
Fiacco, BAL	519	322	3674	25	12					
K. Orton, BUF	424	271	2842	17	10					

Rushers										
	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD					
L. Bell, PIT	282	1341	4.76	81	8					
A. Foster, HOU	255	1223	4.80	51	8					
Forsett, BAL	218	1147	5.26	52	8					
Je. Hill, CIN	199	1024	5.15	52	9					
J. Charles, KAN	193	979	5.07	63	9					
L. Murrey, MIA	197	921	4.68	33	7					
Ilvory, NYJ	185	792	4.28	71	6					
C. Anderson, DEN	166	762	4.59	27	5					
Bernard, CIN	165	672	4.07	89	5					
Chr. Johnson, NYJ	145	643	4.43	47	1					

Receivers										
	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD					
An. Brown, PIT	122	1570	12.9	54	12					
Dem. Thomas, DEN	103	1504	14.6	86	11					
E. Sanders, DEN	95	1331	14.0	48	9					
Edelman, NWE	92	972	10.6	69	4					
Hilton, IND	82	1345	16.4	73	7					
Gronkowski, NWE	82	1124	13.7	46	12					
J. Landry, MIA	79	703	8.9	25	5					
K. Allen, SND	77	773	10.2	35	4					
L. Bell, PIT	77	774	10.1	48	3					
And. Johnson, HOU	75	802	10.7	35	2					

Punters				
	No	Yds	LG	Avg
Anger, JAX	88	4168	69	47.4
Koch, BAL	54	2562	73	47.4
McAfee, IND	64	3018	61	47.2
Huber, CIN	70	3271	69	46.7
Ry. Allen, NWE	62	2886	67	46.5
Lechler, HOU	77	3567	71	46.3
Kern, TEN	81	3735	69	46.1
Fields, MIA	53	2438	60	46.0
Quigley, NYJ	76	3492	69	45.9
Scifres, SND	55	2516	72	45.7

Blotched Bears season ends today vs. Vikings

By **DAVE CAMPBELL**
AP Pro Football Writer

MINNEAPOLIS — When the Chicago Bears finish their game at Minnesota against the Vikings, more than simply the 2014 season will be over.

Several accomplished players will be let go. Maybe the coaching staff, too.

Might as well try to go out with a strong showing, no matter how meaningless the outcome.

“Everybody wants to do it the right way,” said coach Marc Trestman, whose second season with the Bears has been a rough one.

Quarterback Jay Cutler’s status is in question, too. After all the problems and injuries on defense, the internal dysfunction and the persistence of turnovers by Cutler, he’ll be back under center perhaps one last time, after a one-game benching.

“The guys that have been in the huddle all year long ... those are the guys that I’ll play for this week,” Cutler said.

Lose this one, and the Vikings

will drop into a 6-10 tie with the Bears and be the last-place team in the NFC North for the fourth time in the last five years.

With coach Mike Zimmer overseeing modest progress in his first season and quarterback Teddy Bridgewater displaying some potential as a rookie, the Vikings aren’t expected to experience as much turnover.

This has still been a disappointing year, though.

“We definitely do not want to end this season being winless in the division. We want to have a good taste going into the offseason,” defensive end Brian Robinson said.

Here are some key nuggets to know about the game:

AIR BEARS: One of the best games the Bears played in 2014 was on Nov. 16, a 21-13 victory over the Vikings at Soldier Field. Cutler connected 11 times with Alshon Jeffery for 135 yards and a touchdown, seven times with Brandon Marshall for 90 yards and two scores. Vikings cornerback Josh Robinson’s size disadvantage was exploited often by the Bears and their bigger receivers, and Zimmer was critical afterward of his lack of aggression at the line of scrimmage.

“Since that game ended, I’ve been looking forward to it,” Robinson said. “So I’m excited.”

This time, Marshall is injured and won’t play, but Jeffery is a handful by himself. He hauled in 12 passes for 249 yards and two touchdowns at Minnesota in 2013.

LAST TIME: When the Vikings beat the Bears last year, their ninth win in the last 12 meetings in Minnesota, Adrian Peterson rushed for 211 yards.

Peterson played in only three more games in purple, and now the six-time Pro Bowl pick’s future with the team is in doubt due to his suspension under the NFL’s personal conduct policy.

The Vikings turned to Jerick McKinnon, whose rookie year ended early because of a back injury, and Matt Asiata, one of 23 players in the league with 10 or more touchdowns. Ben Tate was

claimed off waivers from Cleveland, but he was cut this week after a month and a mere 13 carries.

“We just figured we saw what we needed to see,” Zimmer said.

YEAR ONE: The first of two seasons for the Vikings outside at the University of Minnesota came with minimal weather trouble. The forecast for today of a dry afternoon with a temperature in the low 20s is typical, and the average kickoff-time temperature for the first seven games was 48 degrees, with one below freezing (12 degrees on Nov. 30). The Vikings are 4-3 at home in 2014.

MINNESOTA HOMECOMINGS: Trestman played in college for Minnesota a few blocks from where the current stadium sits. Bears backup safety Brock Verreen played for the Gophers, too, just last year.

This will also be DE Jared Allen’s his first time playing in Minnesota since he joined the Bears following six seasons with the Vikings.

Allen has only 5 1/2 sacks, the fewest in his 11-year NFL career, after signing for as much as \$32 million over four seasons. He averaged more than 14 sacks over the previous seven years, but he’s not ready to concede anything, even though he’ll turn 33 before next season.

“I didn’t come here for a one-and-done shot. I know I’ve still got a lot of football left in me,” Allen said, adding: “I’ve got enough people around me who’d tell me, ‘Dude, you’re terrible. Hang it up.’”

FROZEN MEMORY: The first time the Vikings played at TCF Bank Stadium was on Dec. 20, 2010, after a snowstorm toppled the Metrodome roof. That was also Brett Favre’s final game, which ended for him with a concussion from a second-quarter sack by Bears defensive end Corey Wootton, who now plays for the Vikings. Allen was on the home side that night.

“It was really, really cold. I remember all games, but those are the ones ... you talk about later in life,” Allen said.

Troubled Browns receiver Gordon suspended for finale

By **TOM WITHERS**
AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND — Josh Gordon will end his troubled season just as it began — suspended.

The Browns’ enigmatic wide receiver was suspended Saturday for violating an unspecified team rule and will miss the finale in Baltimore. Gordon, who led the NFL in yards receiving last season, served a 10-game suspension for repeated drug violations earlier this year.

A person familiar with the situation said Gordon was suspended for missing a morning walk-through in Berea before the team flew to Baltimore. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the team has not disclosed the reason for Gordon’s punishment.

Gordon was late getting onto the practice field Friday, and he emerged from the team’s facility for the outdoor workout wearing teammate Travis Benjamin’s jersey. The Browns traveled to Maryland on Saturday.

Gordon amassed 1,646 yards receiving last season despite being suspended for the first two games for violating the league’s substance abuse policy. He claimed he failed the drug test for a codeine-laced prescription cough medicine.

Since returning from his league ban this year, Gordon had caught 24 passes for 303 yards. But he also ran the wrong pass routes for former starter Brian Hoyer, who was benched in favor of rookie Johnny Manziel. Coach Mike Pettine said Gordon needed to work harder on some plays, and the former Pro Bowler was less accessible to the media.

The Browns (7-8) have lost four straight and will start rookie quarterback Connor Shaw on Sunday against the Ravens, who can still earn a playoff spot.

Shaw was elevated from the practice squad Saturday. He will be Cleveland’s 22nd starting quarterback since 1999.

When he returned from his suspension earlier this season, the 23-year-old Gordon talked about wanting to make things up to the teammates who stood by him. He caught eight passes for 120 yards on Nov. 23 in his first game back against Atlanta and followed that up with seven catches for 75 yards in a loss at Buffalo.

But Gordon, whose drug suspension this year was for marijuana, has caught just nine passes in the past three games, and he has no touchdowns after scoring nine last season.

After he returned last month, Gordon said he was committed to helping the Browns win.

“I just want to control what I can control, and that’s playing my hardest and working my hardest, 16 weeks next season and these last six games this season, however long I’m in Cleveland,” he said. “That’s just what I want to do.”

He hasn’t lived up to his promise.

And now the Browns may have reached a breaking point with him. They provided support for Gordon during his suspension and hoped that he would mature and fulfill his potential.

Because he didn’t reach six games, Gordon will not be able to count this season toward free agency. He won’t be eligible for unrestricted free agency when his current contract runs out after the 2015 season.

The Browns considered trading Gordon before the deadline last year but didn’t want to give up on him for anything less than a first-round draft pick.

The team filled Gordon’s roster spot by promoting receiver Phil Bates from the practice squad.



Chicago Bears chairman George McCaskey, right, autographs for fans during the team's football training camp at Olivet Nazarene University on July 25 in Bourbonnais, Ill.

Aftermath of expected Bears purge will determine George McCaskey’s legacy

When Marc Trestman ran onto the field at Metropolitan Stadium for the first time as a Vikings rookie free-agent defensive back in the 1978 preseason opener, emotion overcame the Minneapolis native.

Trestman made eye contact with his proud dad, Jerry, who was sitting in his usual seat, and suddenly the memories of all those games together as father and son watching their favorite team came flooding back.

“I will never forget the look on his face,” Trestman wrote in his book, “Perseverance.”

Again Sunday at the home of the Vikings, albeit TCF Bank Stadium, family and close friends will surround Trestman a generation later for another profound, personal football moment he perhaps never will forget - as hard as he tries. The Bears will finish their most disappointing season of the post-1985 Super Bowl era in what figures to be Trestman’s final game as head coach, likely ending a two-year experiment that did little more than prove the value of experience on an NFL sideline.

Chicago anxiously awaits a Halas Hall overhaul, beginning with Trestman and perhaps continuing with general manager Phil Emery, depending on what Bears Chairman George McCaskey decides after ownership debated the GM’s future all week. The most obvious passion left in a football life is for significant change.

Under Trestman, the Bears culture slowly became too permissive, the offense too cute and the defense too soft. The so-called quarterback whisperer never raised his voice enough to make a difference in Jay Cutler, who, after two years of more coddling than coaching, remains the “same old Jay.” The Bears defense and special teams steadily deteriorated under coordinators Trestman allowed Emery to choose for him. The



David Haugh

comparisons to Bill Walsh and Marv Levy seem pretty silly now for a Bears head coach who awkwardly fit a job that Mike Ditka and George Halas had held.

The news McCaskey must break to Trestman on Monday morning if the family truly considers the Bears a public trust reflects merely on Trestman the coach, but not the man.

As an NFL head coach, Trestman was an exceedingly nice guy, but he never found a way to translate uncommon consideration into unparalleled success. He was hired in January 2013 to close the gap on the Packers. He should be fired, ultimately, for getting passed by the Vikings. Trestman inherited a 10-win team from Lovie Smith that, two dysfunctional seasons later, can smell its 11th loss.

At what point do you think the McCaskeys realized the Canadian Football League where Trestman succeeded as a head coach has only eight teams?

The irony is Trestman took the job intending to engage with every player on an individual, personal level and struggled largely because of his inability to connect deeply enough to create respect in the locker room. The latest example came when Trestman, asked about Lions center Dominic Raiola intentionally stomping on Bears defensive tackle Ego Ferguson’s ankle, passed on a chance to stick up for his player by offering a lame, “No comment.”

Players in today’s money-first, me-first age of professional sports took advantage of Trestman’s outwardly meek demeanor, from Lance Briggs skipping Labor Day practice before Week 1 to Brandon Marshall turning the season into his own 17-week reality show, and every undisciplined act in between.

Undisciplined teams commit penalties, make mistakes and miss assignments - not to mention the playoffs. Mr. and Mrs. Grabowski, your 2014 Chicago Bears under Trestman.

How fitting that Trestman’s Bears tenure likely will end in his hometown, where it began to unravel Dec. 1, 2013, in an overtime defeat from which his credibility really never recovered. On that pivotal day, Trestman called on kicker Robbie Gould to attempt a 47-yard field goal on second down rather than improve the percentages with at least one more play. Fatefully, Gould missed. The loss, which essentially kept the Bears out of the playoffs, dropped Trestman’s record to .500 for the first time and preceded 12 losses in the next 19 games. That’s a trend McCaskey needs to stop immediately.

The Bears haven’t won a playoff game in almost four years - Jan. 16, 2011. Since the Bears’ last postseason appearance, the Packers have won a Super Bowl and the Lions and Vikings each have made the playoffs. Whatever it is they think they’re doing at 1920 Football Drive in Lake Forest, Ill. isn’t working.

Maybe the Bears quietly began exploring replacements for Emery this week, according to a league source, because they realize it. Maybe Emery signing center Roberto Garza to a modest one-year, \$1.5 million contract signals he will keep his job or stay with the Bears in another role. Maybe McCaskey will emerge from his football bunker Monday morning with an appropriately strong message that enough is enough and the Bears are tired of being an organization nobody takes seriously as a Super Bowl contender.

Only McCaskey’s legacy as a football executive depends on him responding to a lost season with clear direction.

David Haugh is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune.



Bill Wipperfurth / AP

Cleveland Browns wide receiver Josh Gordon carries the ball after a reception against the Buffalo Bills during the first half of a game last month. The Browns suspended Gordon on Saturday for a violation of team rules one day before the season finale at Baltimore.

FREE GIFT!
WHEN YOU
BRING IN
THIS CARD!

Year End SELL OFF

INTEREST FREE
UNTIL 2016!*

MARK YOUR
CALENDARS!
DEC. 28 - JAN. 3!



6 PIECE BEDROOM SET
Queen Headboard, Footboard, Rails,
Dresser, Mirror & Nightstand. **\$899**

UP TO
57% OFF
STORE WIDE!

SOFAS
\$299
RECLINERS
\$199
4 PC. DINING SETS
\$299
CHAIR SIDE END TABLES
\$69

MON & FRI: 9:30-8:00
TUE-THU, SAT: 9:30-5:30
SUN: CLOSED
CLOSED NEW YEARS DAY

FURNITURE MATTRESS APPLIANCE
COUNTRY HOUSE FURNITURE
"YOUR COMPLETE HOME FURNISHINGS STORE"
Year End Bonus!
\$150⁰⁰ OFF
Any Purchase \$1500 Or More
(Must present coupon. One coupon per household. Excludes prior sales, Clearance Center and Hot Buys. Qualifying purchases must equal \$1500 before sales tax.) Expires 1/3/15

FURNITURE MATTRESS APPLIANCE
COUNTRY HOUSE FURNITURE
"YOUR COMPLETE HOME FURNISHINGS STORE"
Year End Bonus!
\$399⁹⁵
18 CU FT REFRIGERATOR
(Limited quantities available. Must present coupon. One coupon per household.) Expires 1/3/15

FURNITURE MATTRESS APPLIANCE
COUNTRY HOUSE FURNITURE
"YOUR COMPLETE HOME FURNISHINGS STORE"
Year End Bonus!
FREE DELIVERY
(Within a 30 mile radius of store location on purchases of \$499 or more.) Expires 1/3/15

THREE COLORS
AVAILABLE!



8 PC. LIVING ROOM GROUP
2pc. Sectional, 2 End Tables, Coffee Table, 2 Lamps & Rug
\$999

* With qualified credit. Minimum monthly payments required. See store for details.
© 2014 Weatherwax Marketing. www.weatherwaxmarketing.com 1-888-888-8699 #2677

HOT BUY DOORBUSTER!

Sealy
Year End CLOSEOUT

HOT BUY!
AS LOW AS
\$399
Queen Mattress



Featuring Gel
Memory Foam!

FREE GIFT
— UP TO —
\$300

With purchase of any Sealy Optimum or
Pure Touch mattress set.

FURNITURE MATTRESS APPLIANCE

212 TROWBRIDGE ST.
Downtown Allegan
269-686-1155

08337 M-140
South Haven
(Village Market Plaza)
637-6135

COUNTRY HOUSE FURNITURE
"YOUR COMPLETE HOME FURNISHINGS STORE"

Daily 9:30-5:30; Mon. & Fri. 'til 8; Closed Sun.

- All Major Credit Cards
- Credit Terms Available

ALL PREVIOUS SALES EXCLUDED
FROM THIS SALE. LIMITED
QUANTITIES ON SOME ITEMS.

 Visit us on
Facebook

hp FOCUS



kinexus
ECONOMY • WORKFORCE • COMMUNITY

Want to start a business?

ATTEND LAUNCH POINT, A CLASS FOR FINDING ENTREPRENEURIAL SUCCESS AT KINEXUS

Wednesday, January 14, 2015, from 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Contact Jeff at hannan@kinexus.org or 269.927.1064, x1171.

LAUNCH POINT

DAVE BARRY'S YEAR *in* REVIEW



Reliving the highlights – and lowlights – of 2014

By DAVE BARRY
Miami Herald (TNS)

It was a year of mysteries. To list some of the more baffling ones:

■ A huge airliner simply vanished, and to this day nobody has any idea what happened to it, despite literally thousands of hours of intensive speculation on CNN.

■ Millions of Americans suddenly decided to make videos of themselves having ice water poured on their heads. Remember? There were rumors that this had something to do with charity, but for most of us, the connection was never clear. All we knew was that, for a while there, every time we turned on the TV, there was a local newscaster or Gwyneth Paltrow or Kermit the Frog or some random individual soaking wet and shivering. This mysterious phenomenon ended as suddenly as it started, but not before uncounted trillions of American brain cells died of frostbite.

■ An intruder jumped the White House fence and, inexplicably, managed to run into the White House through the unlocked front door. Most of us had assumed that anybody attempting this would instantly be converted to a bullet-ridden pile of smoking carbon by snipers, lasers, drones, ninjas, etc., but it turned out that, for some mysterious reason, the White House had effectively the same level of anti-penetration security as a Dunkin' Donuts.

■ LeBron James deliberately moved to Cleveland.

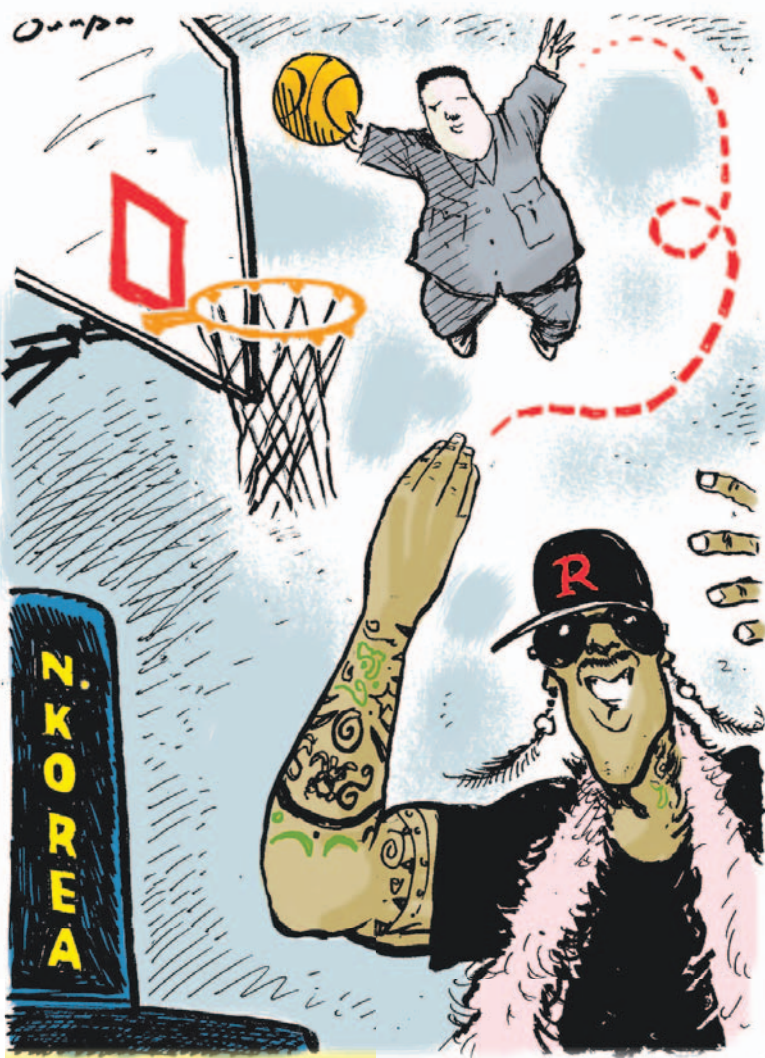
Of course not everything that happened in 2014 was mysterious. Some developments – ISIS, Ebola, the song “Happy” – were simply bad.

There was even some good news in 2014, mostly in the form of things that did not happen. A number of GM cars – the final total could be as high as four – were not recalled. There were several whole days during which no statements had to be issued by the U.S. Department of Explaining What The Vice President Meant To Say. And for the fifth consecutive year, the Yankees failed to even play in the World Series.

But other than that, it was a miserable 12 months. In case you have forgotten why, let's take one last look back, starting with...

JANUARY

... when the nation is invaded by the Polar Vortex, which blasts in from Canada, bringing with it heavy snows, record low temperatures and Justin Bieber, who pen-



JANUARY: Kim Jong-Un defeats Dennis Rodman 168-0 in a friendly one-on-one game refereed by the North Korean army.

erates as far south as Miami before being arrested for driving a Lamborghini drunk. Weather is also the big story in drought-stricken California, where the state legislature passes a tough new water-conservation law requiring all non-celebrity residents to go to the bathroom in Oregon.

In Colorado, the new year begins on a “high” note as the sale of recreational marijuana becomes legal. Despite dire predictions from critics that this will lead to increases in crime and addiction, state law-enforcement officials report that if you stare for a while at the flashing lights on top of their cars, you can see some amazing colors.

The U.S. Senate confirms Janet Yellen as chair of the Federal Reserve after she assures senators that she will let them know if anybody ever figures out what the Federal Reserve actually does.

In a major speech, President Barack Obama, responding to al-

legations that the National Security Agency has been electronically snooping on foreign leaders, announces that all federal agencies will henceforth follow strict new guidelines on the sale and distribution of photos of Angela Merkel naked. In other foreign affairs, French President François Hollande is embroiled in a sex scandal involving his attractive girlfriend and an attractive actress despite the fact that he looks remarkably like George Costanza.

Elsewhere abroad, NBA legend and idiot Dennis Rodman makes a fourth visit to North Korea to hang out with his misunderstood pal Kim Jong-Un, who defeats Rodman 168-0 in a friendly one-on-one game refereed by the North Korean army, then celebrates by firing a missile at Japan.

Speaking of soldiers, in ...

FEBRUARY

... as the Northeast continues to be battered by heavy snows and subzero temperatures, the Massachusetts National Guard is called out to battle the Polar Vortex, eventually cornering it inside a Costco store near Boston, where it barricades itself along with several dozen hostages who are forced to survive by eating caramel cheddar popcorn from containers the size of hot tubs.

In sports, the largest audience in American TV history tunes in to watch one of the most anticipated Super Bowls in years, pitting the Denver Broncos against the Seattle Seahawks in a historic matchup so boring that the entire second half is pre-empted by Bud Light commercials. In other football news, Michael Sam, a defensive end for the University of Missouri, makes history by becoming the first Division I college football player to openly declare that he actually attended some classes.

But the big sports story takes place in Sochi, where Russia hosts the Winter Olympics. Despite fears of violence, the games go smoothly until late in the opening ceremony, when – in what observers view as a troubling omen – the Russian biathlon team wipes out the entire Ukrainian delegation.

General Motors recalls 800,000 Chevrolet Cobalts and Pontiac G5s after tests show they don't always have enough wheels.

President Obama hosts a state dinner for French President François "Le Muffin de Stud" Hollande, who arrives at the White House driving a red scooter with two women riding on the back and three more chasing on foot.

In politics, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, responding to a radio interviewer's questions about his alleged role in the 2013 "Bridgegate" lane-closure scandal, eats the interviewer. And in a historic policy shift, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder announces that same-sex married couples will henceforth be subject to the same incomprehensible tax laws as everybody else.

Speaking of incomprehensible,
in ...

MARCH

... the news is dominated by the baffling disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, which has millions of viewers tuning in to CNN to follow its round-the-clock exclusive video coverage of random unidentified objects floating in the ocean that might be airplane pieces – although they never actually turn out to BE airplane pieces, but they MIGHT have been – accompanied by countless hours of analysis by a wide array of experts who have no more actual knowledge of what happened to Flight 370 than the people selling jewelry on the Home Shopping Network.

Abroad, the big story involves the Crimea, which until now many of us thought was a disease, as in “Bob has a bad case of the Crimea,” but which turns out to be a part of Ukraine that Russia wants to annex. As tension mounts in the region, the United States and the European Union issue Stern Warnings to Russia, such as “You better not annex the Crimea!” And: “Don’t make us turn this car around!” Nevertheless Russia goes ahead and annexes it, forcing the U.S. and Europe to escalate from Stern Warnings to Harsh Sanctions, including the suspension of Vladimir Putin’s Netflix account.

In other international developments, Bill Clinton discreetly inquires about the legal requirements involved in running for president of France.

Hopes for an end to the brutal winter weather are dashed when the Polar Vortex, having disguised itself as a warm front, manages to slip past surrounding



MARCH: Many thought the Crimea was a disease, but it turned out to be part of Ukraine that Russia wanted to annex. Tension mounts, with the U.S. and European Union issuing Stern Warnings and Harsh Sanctions.

BARRY

From page D1

Massachusetts National Guard troops and escape moments before the Costco is leveled by artillery fire, destroying two-thirds of the state’s supply of jerky.

On a happier note, Colorado announces that it has already collected marijuana sales taxes totaling \$2 million, which the state plans to spend on “a subwoofer the size of Delaware.”

General Motors recalls 1.5 million more cars to correct a steering issue that causes certain models to deliberately aim for elderly pedestrians.

In a development that surprises film critics, Academy Awards voters, apparently hoping to woo a younger audience, award the Oscar for Best Picture to “Sharknado.”

Speaking of surprises, in ...

APRIL

... Russia, ignoring both the Stern Warnings and the Harsh Sanctions, continues its military intervention in Ukraine, leaving the United States with no choice but to deploy the ultimate weapon: Joe Biden, who is sent to Kiev to deliver a Strong Rebuke, followed by dinner.

On the domestic front, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius, who oversaw the rollout of Obamacare, resigns from the cabinet to take a position overseeing email storage for the Internal Revenue Service.

In an aviation miracle, a 15-year-old boy sneaks into the landing-gear compartment of a Hawaiian Airlines Boeing 767 and somehow survives a five-hour flight from San Jose to Maui. Hours later, major U.S. airlines jointly announce that they are offering “an exciting new seating option for budget-minded flyers who enjoy fresh air.”

In financial news, India edges ahead of Japan to become the world’s third-largest economy in purchasing power, behind Jay Z and Beyonce. General Motors, in what analysts view as a shrewd tactical move, announces that it is recalling 435,000 Fords. Tyson Foods recalls 75,000 pounds of frozen chicken nuggets following reports that some of them may contain chicken.

On a happier note, the Polar Vortex finally goes back to Canada after becoming involved in a street altercation with Alec Baldwin.

In sports, Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling, whose racist comments have sparked widespread outrage, is given the NBA’s harshest possible punishment: Season tickets to the Knicks.

Speaking of harsh punishments, in ...

MAY

... the United States and Europe, which are really starting to lose patience with Russia’s actions in Ukraine, announce that they intend to “seriously consider” taking steps that could ultimately result in the cancellation of Vladimir Putin’s American Express card.

Meanwhile in Thailand, where people have the best names on Earth, Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra is found guilty of abuse of power by the Constitutional Court, whose members include Nurak Marpraneet, Taweekiat Meenakanit, Udomsak Nitimontree and, of course, Boonsong Kulbupar. Yingluck is replaced by caretaker prime minister Niwattamrong Boonsongpaisan. There will be a quiz on this.

In domestic news, the Department of Veterans Affairs is engulfed in scandal following revelations that some VA hospitals are just now getting around to treating veterans of the War of 1812. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki tells a Senate

committee that he is “mad as hell” about this, but he ends up resigning after he is out-angered by President Obama, who according to a top aide is “madder than hell.” Numerous Republicans declare that they, too, are extremely mad. Basically, everybody in Washington is hopping mad about this scandal, leaving little doubt that it is only a matter of time before some strongly worded reports are generated.

Also resigning from the government is White House press spokesperson Jay Carney, who plans to pursue a career as a Magic 8-Ball specializing in “Reply hazy try again.”

In sports, the month’s biggest event is the National Football League draft, which draws 32 million viewers, who tune in to witness the high-voltage excitement of Roger Goodell walking to a microphone every 10 minutes to read a name, kind of like a slower version of Bingo. The Kentucky Derby is won by a 2005 Chevrolet Malibu that escaped the steering recall.

And the sports excitement continues in ...

JUNE

... as the World Cup soccer tournament gets underway in Brazil, where, in a surprise first-round elimination, the highly regarded Spanish team is consumed by an anaconda. The Russian team is also eliminated in the first round, but is able to remain in the tournament – over the strongly worded objections of the American team – by annexing the Belgian team.

In Washington scandal news, the Internal Revenue Service, responding to a subpoena, tells congressional investigators that it cannot produce 28 months of Lois Lerner’s emails because the hard drive they were stored on failed, and the hard drive was thrown away, and the backup tapes were erased, and no printed copies were saved – contrary to the IRS’s own record-keeping policy, which was eaten by the IRS’s dog. “It was just one crazy thing after another,” states the IRS, “and it got us to thinking: All these years we’ve been subjecting taxpayers to everything short of rectal probes if they can’t produce EVERY SINGLE DOCUMENT WE WANT, and here we lose YEARS worth of official records! So from now on, if taxpayers tell us they lost something, or just plain forgot to make a tax payment, we’ll be like, ‘Hey, whatever! Stuff happens!’ Because who are we to judge?”

But all kidding aside, you can bet that before this thing is over there will be a strongly worded report.

As California’s brutal drought worsens, state law-enforcement agents, operating under emergency authority granted by the legislature, raid Cher’s home and confiscate an estimated \$3 million worth of moisturizer.

Speaking of brutal, in ...

JULY

... the Ukrainian crisis intensifies when a Malaysia Airlines plane is shot down over Ukraine by a missile apparently fired by separatists backed by Russia. This is the last straw for the U.S. and Europe, which retaliate swiftly with a stern statement warning that any Russians planning to dine in U.S. or European restaurants in the future can expect to receive “very slow service.”

In other July Russia-related news, the Russian space agency launches a six-ton satellite carrying, among other animals, five geckos – four female and one male – as part of an experiment to determine how weightlessness will affect their sex lives. Sex Geckos In Space! We are not making this item up.

In state news, Colorado calls up Mexico at 1:30 a.m. and attempts to place a takeout order for 65,000 beef chimichangas.



OCTOBER: Authorities say we should just stay calm regarding Ebola because given what we know about Ebola there is probably no danger that you will get Ebola so just stop worrying about Ebola Ebola Ebola OMIGOD EBOLA!

SEPTEMBER

... the FBI announces that it is investigating the distribution of hundreds of naked-celebrity photos that were helpfully uploaded from the celebrities’ iPhones to the “cloud,” which also has all of your personal information despite the fact that you have NO idea what it is. An outraged Miley Cyrus threatens to sue Apple when she discovers that none of the photos are of her.

In government news, the troubled Secret Service once again comes under withering criticism when an intruder is able to jump the White House fence, enter the White House through the front door, overpower a Secret Service agent, run through the Central Hall, enter the East Room, deliver a nationwide radio address and appoint four federal judges before being overpowered. In a congressional hearing probing the incident, the Secret Service director promises to improve White House security, but suggests that in the meantime the First Family should “consider adopting a larger dog.”

Abroad, Scottish voters, in a closely watched referendum, decide by a surprisingly large margin that they, too, hate bagpipe music.

In a sad development, the Russian space agency announces that when the satellite containing the five geckos in the weightless-sex experiment returned from orbit, the geckos were dead. On a more positive note, the agency notes that “they were all smiling.”

On the weather front, eastern Asia is hit by a tropical storm named (really) “Fung-wong.” Incredibly, Fung-wong does not strike Thailand.

In the celebrity social event of the year, George Clooney marries Amal Alamuddin in what it is believed to be one of the most elaborate and expensive weddings ever held in a Chuck E. Cheese. Sources describe it as “like a fairy tale, until Anna Wintour threw up on Matt Damon in the ball pit.”

But the mood turns less festive in ...

OCTOBER

... when the Ebola virus takes center stage as a parade of medical authorities appear on cable news to assure the American public that there is absolutely no



SEPTEMBER: In a closely watched referendum, Scottish voters decide that they, too, hate bagpipe music.

While technicians work to solve the problem, the military is forced to refer to the new operation as “Bob.”

In other endless-conflict news, a cease-fire between Israel and Hamas is broken three-thousandths of a second after it is signed, setting a new Middle East record that is celebrated by rocket fire far into the night.

In Thailand, the national assembly chooses, as the new prime minister replacing Yingluck Shinawatra, General Prayut Chan-O-Cha, whose appointment becomes official when it is approved by King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

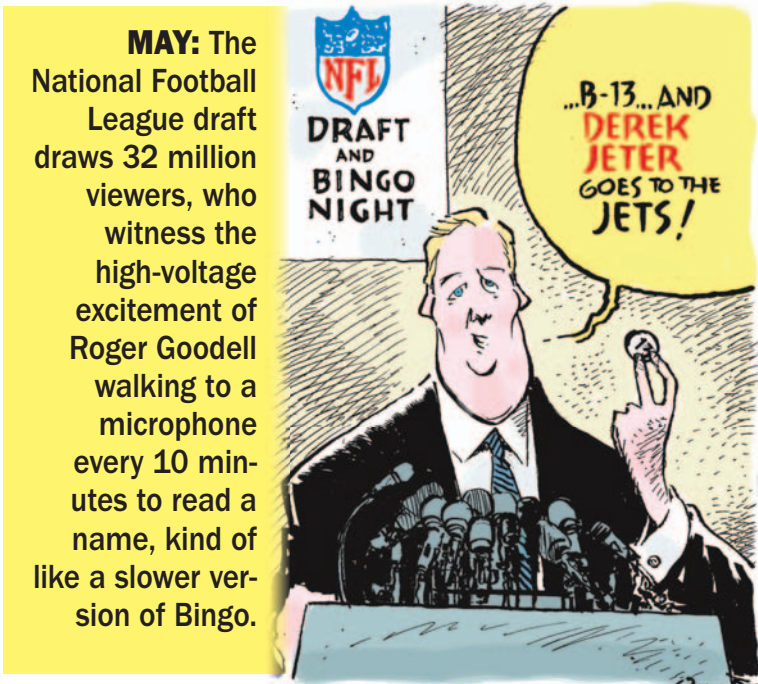
In a potentially troubling development, Russia annexes Canada.

Domestically, the big story is in Ferguson, Mo., which is rocked by a wave of sometimes-violent protests following the fatal shooting of Michael Brown by police officer Darren Wilson. The shooting ignites a passionate national debate whose participants have basically as much solid information about what actually happened as they do about Malaysia Airlines Flight 370.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, responding to criticism of his handling of the Ray Rice case, announces a strict new policy under which the league will assume that an unconscious woman being dragged off an elevator “probably is not napping.”

In entertainment news, the big winner in television’s Primetime Emmy Awards, taking home five Emmys including Outstanding Drama Series, is, to nobody’s surprise, Derek Jeter.

Speaking of drama, in ...



MAY: The National Football League draft draws 32 million viewers, who witness the high-voltage excitement of Roger Goodell walking to a microphone every 10 minutes to read a name, kind of like a slower version of Bingo.

Info-Line can offer answers and information

For more than 40 years, the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) has provided information and assistance services. One of AAA's services is the Info-Line, a toll-free phone number people can call when they have questions or are looking for information about accessing services – everything from long-term supports and services, Medicare, Medicaid and health insurance, to questions about housing, transportation, meals, legal services, nursing homes, assisted living, senior



Dianne Carlson
Generations

centers and more. From time to time in this column, the AAA will share some of the most common questions and answers fielded by the four full-time professional Community Information Managers who answer the phones in the call center. We're glad to hear from you, and share more about the service.

QUESTION: I take care of my husband, who needs help every day. I make meals and help him with bathing, dressing, getting in and out of bed and his recliner. I've been invited to my niece's wedding in a few months, but would have to leave town for a week. How can I find someone to care for my husband either in

my home or at a facility while I am away?

ANSWER: The word respite means "break" or "relief." Respite care services are designed to offer families the opportunity for a break from caregiving responsibilities. Sometimes this is an hour or two at a time – at home or at an adult day center – or for longer periods of time.

When respite services are provided in the home, families often hire trained caregivers through home care agencies. Bathing, grooming, medication set ups, light housekeeping, meal preparation, errands and companionship are some of the services that may be available on a 24/7 basis. In this situation, the care re-

ceiver is not inconvenienced by transportation and strange environments. Other places where respite is provided include residential settings such as assisted living facilities or adult foster care homes. Some nursing homes also provide respite care. These homes serve people with a variety of care needs. Arrangements for care can be made well in advance.

The cost of respite care varies with the type of service and needs. Some federal and/or state programs may help to pay for respite care for those in greatest need. Long-term care insurance policies may cover some of the cost of respite care. The AAA can help answer questions about re-

spite care.

QUESTION: What agencies and homes do you recommend to provide respite care for my husband?

ANSWER: The AAA is pleased to offer information about the type of care you're looking for including a list of agencies with qualified staff to stay with him in your home, types and locations of facilities in your community, adult day services, questions to ask, and other considerations. We'll discuss your options and choices with you and your family, though are not able to make specific recommendations. We'll give you the information you need to choose the care best suited for your needs.

Ask your friends, neigh-

bors, or relatives about the personal experience they've had with the service you are looking into. If you're considering a care residence for a short stay, call and set up a time to visit, find out the costs, and how much care to expect.

For answers to your questions, call the Info-Line for Aging and Disability at 800-654-2810 during business hours Monday through Friday. You can also email questions to info@AreaAgencyonAging.org.

Dianne Carlson is community service director of Region IV Area Agency on Aging in Southwest Michigan. Questions on age or independence services? Call the Info-Line for Aging & Disability at 800-654-2810 or visit www.areaagencyonaging.org. The Generations column appears each Sunday in The Herald-Palladium.

VOLUNTEERS

Hospice at Home

Caregiver support: Do you want to help people in your community? One way to help is by coming into the home of a person receiving Hospice services and being present so that their caregiver may have the opportunity to rest, or get out of the home to do errands, enjoy alone time or time with others. Volunteers are needed in the St. Joseph area.

Contact Candy Briney at cbriney@hospiceathomecares.org or 429-7100.

Benton Harbor Girls Association for Learning & Self-Esteem

A computer technician is needed anytime between 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday at 560 Columbus Ave., Benton Harbor.

For details, email Dr. Patricia Ann Quattrin at paquattrin@alumni.nd.edu.

Meals On Wheels

Meals On Wheels of Southwestern Michigan (Senior Nutrition Services) has a volunteer position available – meal delivery driver for the South Haven route.



The Herald-Palladium, in conjunction with Volunteer Southwest Michigan, publishes volunteer opportunities every Sunday.

To view all current listings, please visit Volunteer Southwest Michigan's opportunities page online at volunteerswmi.org.

The position is three hours a day Monday-Friday or any day(s) available, though help is needed especially on Mondays and Fridays. Use your own transportation.

Contact Coleen Halamka at chalamka@snsmeals.org or 925-0137.

Therapeutic Equestrian Center

Barn clean-up: Help us

keep the barn looking clean and sharp! Great opportunity for a youth group or individuals. We have approximately four each year. Two hour commitment each day.

Sidewalker: Many riders in the Therapeutic Equestrian Center program need help to maintain their balance while sitting on the horse as they are learning to ride. They also relay the instructor's directions using verbal or physical assistance.

For more information, contact Kelly Jimmerson at Kelly4tec@gmail.com or 517-775-5071.

Harbor Habitat for Humanity

ReStore volunteers: Pick-up and delivery workers who can lift 20 pounds frequently are needed. Hours are 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays.

Receptionist volunteers: Greeting customers/clients, handing out informational pamphlets, assisting in paper work, answering incoming calls, and directing calls to appropriate personnel. Hours are noon-5 p.m.

Wednesdays and Fridays, and 1-5 p.m. Thursdays.

Construction volunteer: Expertise in one or more of the following: painting, plumbing, installing insulation, cabinets, light fixtures, landscaping, electrical wiring and fixtures, trim work, dry wall, appliances.

Hours are 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays.

Contact Brenda Butler at bbutler@harborhabitat.org or 934-5233.

Michigan Blood

Michigan Blood is looking for volunteers to help at blood drives throughout the St. Joseph area.

Volunteers are responsible for socializing with donors, offering fluids and other refreshments after the donation process, and watching out for any adverse reactions.

No experience is necessary; orientation will be provided. Anyone over the age of 16 can volunteer. An application is required, and Michigan Blood runs reference and background checks. Contact Terri Drafta, Volunteer Services coordinator, at 585-3761 or tdrafta@miblood.org.

PET OF THE WEEK



Photo provided

Meet Dorothy! Dorothy is a young adult tortoise shell kitty who's about 2 years old. She was found with her young litter of seven. Dorothy tried her best to feed and care for her babies but by the time they reached about five weeks of age, she was so nutritionally depleted that she ended up in the hospital for 10 days. All of her babies have found homes of their own and now it is Dorothy's turn! She is now healthy, up to date on vaccinations and spayed. With proper introduction, she gets along with other cats. Dorothy is available for adoption with Save A Stray, www.save-a-stray.org. For more information on Dorothy or other available kitties, call Sherry at 429-7583.

From previous page

reason to panic about Ebola so we should just stay calm regarding Ebola because given what we know about Ebola there is probably no danger that you will get Ebola Ebola Ebola OMIGOD EBOLA! After a solid week of being reassured 24/7 about Ebola, the public has been soothed into a state of panic, which is not improved when the director of the Centers for Disease Control does an interview for CNN from inside a bubble.

President Obama, responding decisively to the mounting crisis, appoints as his "Ebola Czar" Ron Klain, an attorney who is never heard from again.

In military news, the Pentagon announces that it has finally come up with a name for the current U.S. actions in Iraq and Syria: "Operation Inherent Resolve." Seriously, that is the actual name. They should have gone with Thunderous Bidet.

In politics, the big story is the looming midterm elections, which have President Obama crisscrossing the nation at a hectic pace in a last-ditch effort to find a Democratic candidate willing to appear in public with him. The president is finally able to schedule an event with 94-year-old R. Nordstrom Fleener, who is running for his 17th term as road commissioner of Carwankle County, Tenn. Mr. Fleener appears pleased by the endorsement, although he refers to the president repeatedly as "Mr. Truman."

Abroad, Joko Widodo is sworn in as president of Indonesia, succeeding Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. It is not known whether Widodo plans to visit Thailand, and if so whether he plans to take his eldest son, Gibran Rakabuming Raka.

In baseball, the Giants defeat the Royals to win the World Series, with the Series MVP award going to Derek Jeter.

Speaking of defeat, in ...

NOVEMBER

... the Democrats get creamed in the midterm elections, which means the Republicans will control both houses of Congress, as

well as the road commissioner-ship of Carwankle County, which R. Nordstrom Fleener, despite being unopposed, loses badly, although his wife elects not to tell him. With the federal government now facing total gridlock, Republican and Democratic leaders realize that the only way they can attack the many serious problems facing the nation is to stop their endless cheap-shot partisan bickering and work together in the spirit of ... Wow, this is some STRONG stuff I am smoking here.

In other political news, the debate over U.S. immigration policy intensifies when President Obama, in a move that infuriates Republicans, signs an executive order giving Texas back to Mexico. In a close vote, the U.S. Senate defeats the Keystone Pipeline, which would, at peak capacity, have delivered 830,000 barrels of oil per day from the Canadian tar sands to Leonardo DiCaprio's yacht.

A monster early snowstorm paralyzes much of the nation, dumping more than four feet of snow on Buffalo, N.Y., which fortunately is uninhabited. As highways become impassible, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo declares a state of emergency moments before being carried off by a yeti.

In what some international observers see as a deliberate provocation, a Russian fighter jet shoots down the Goodyear Blimp.

On the science front, a module from the space probe Rosetta, having traveled 310 million miles, lands on a comet and sends back clear images of what astronomers identify, based on the planets orbiting it, as Kim Kardashian's butt.

In a much-anticipated decision, a St. Louis County grand jury elects not to indict Darren Wilson, setting in motion a vintage performance of the timeless Kabuki theater of American racial relations, with all parties – blacks, whites, conservatives, progressives, politicians, the media, police, protesters, racists, rioters and, of course, the Rev. Al Sharpton – playing their traditional roles and delivering their tradi-



DECEMBER: In Denver a mellow throng will gather to ring in the new year with the lighting of the Two Hundred Foot Doobie.

tional lines, following a script that could have been written five years ago, or 10, so there is no risk that anybody will say, do or think anything remotely unexpected, or emerge in any way changed. (This doesn't apply to YOU, of course. I'm talking about everybody else.)

As the month draws to a close, the healing begins, with the Thanksgiving holiday bringing Americans of all races and religions together to fight over discounted electronics.

Speaking of fighting, in ...

DECEMBER

... President Obama, moving to fill the cabinet vacancy created by the resignation of Chuck Hagel, announces – in what is seen as a major shift in military policy – that his new Secretary of Defense will be Chuck Norris. The nomination is swiftly approved by the Senate Armed Services Committee after Norris, in lieu of making an opening statement at his confirmation hearing, reduces the witness table to kindling with his forehead.

In a shocking political bombshell, Rob Portman announces that he will not run for president in 2016, setting off a nationwide frenzy of Googling by people wondering who "Rob Portman" is. Fortunately, there are still plenty of politicians in both major parties thinking about getting into the race, thereby assuring that the voters will ultimately be

able to choose their next president from a wide range of fresh, exciting options, be it Jeb Bush or Hillary Clinton.

Elsewhere on the political front, Democrats on the Senate Intelligence Committee release an explosive and controversial report alleging that the CIA repeatedly poured buckets of ice water on people's heads. CIA defenders claim this was done for a good cause, although nobody is sure what it is.

Air travel in the Midwest is disrupted when four unscheduled Russian bombers land at O'Hare during rush hour and refuse to leave until they receive fuel and Egg McMuffins. Prince William and Kate, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, arrive in New York City for a whirlwind visit that begins with a four-hour ride from the airport to their hotel in a taxi with a driver complaining the entire time about Uber.

In sports, the top college football teams play in the traditional year-end bowl games, including the TaxSlayer Bowl, the Bitcoin Bowl, the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl, the Duck Commander Bowl and the Thunderous Bidet Bowl. All but one of these are actual bowl games.

In another year-end tradition, millions of children stay up late on Christmas Eve, eagerly awaiting the arrival of Santa Claus, who unfortunately is delayed because five of his reindeer were recalled by GM.

As the year draws to a close, happy revelers will jam New York's Times Square to watch the traditional dropping of the illuminated ball, while in Denver a mellow throng will gather to ring in the new year with the lighting of the Two Hundred Foot Doobie. And all across America, voices will join in singing "Auld Lang Syne," the beloved traditional song that makes no sense. Which makes it perfect for 2014.

Maybe 2015 will be better. We can hope, right? It might help if we stand downwind of Denver.

Anyway, Happy New Year.

Dave Barry is a humor columnist for the Miami Herald. Write to him c/o Miami Herald, One Herald Plaza, Miami FL 33132.

The Herald-Palladium
Editorial Board:

DAVID HOLGATE
Publisher

DAVE BROWN
Managing Editor

STEVE JEWELL
News Editor

DALE BREWER
Local News Editor

KATIE KRAWCZAK
Features Editor

Start thinking happy thoughts about 2015

By ANN MCFEATTERS
Tribune News Service (TNS)

It's hard at this pleasant, anticipatory time of year to dwell on grim news about our politicians (who have all fled this city for the holidays). So let's not.

We will think happy thoughts about what we hope will happen in 2015.

We would like President Obama to stop sending us emails that seem friendly enough, "Ann! I have important news for you!" but which turn out to be appeals for money. Even the firefighters are more subtle. ("Things you should know to keep your house from burning down.")

It is to be hoped that Sony produces a cheerful children's movie that is without any controversy whatsoever, and we never have to think again about anything videographic called "The Interview."

Similarly, perhaps North Korea could become the new Brigadoon, disappearing into the mists for many decades. (Hey, we all need fantasies. I once stood in Panmunjom, watching the Potemkin houses and listening to the weird music being played by the North Koreans on loudspeakers – psychological

torture – and decided this is a country with no redeeming social value.)

We did get an early Christmas present – the country lost its Internet access. "Hey, accidents happen!" the U.S. said with a shrug.)

Perhaps, when Pope Francis and Obama get together, the pope could give the president some ideas on how to deal with the "chatter, grumbling and gossip" that seem to be the hallmark not only of the Vatican but the federal bureaucracy. What the pope calls "the sickness of the cowardly who, not having the courage to speak directly to the people involved, instead speak behind their backs."

Speaking of resolutions, it would be nice if incoming Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., sticks to his vow to stop Republicans from saying "no, no, h-- no" all the time and start saying "yes, yes, we mean yes."

It's not exactly clear how that will work out, but any change has to be good. There are two kinds of people in politics, McConnell says he has decided. "Those who want to make a point and those who want to make a difference." We are so desperate, that this sounds re-

freshing. At the wisp of thought of Washington working, we find a kind of irrational exuberance bubbling up inside us that has nothing to do with the eggnog. (Well, maybe a little.)

We understand that the plummeting price of oil is very bad for many people, including oil producers in our own country. But we can't help hoping that it might make the arrogant Vladimir Putin a tad less obnoxious as he gets fewer billions from the Russian Bear's oil wealth.

As we brace for the tedium of another presidential race, let us hope that Hillary Clinton focuses less on her hair and being rich and more on what she would actually hope to do for the country. Let us plead for understanding from Jeb Bush that we don't want four more years of the 12 Bush years we already had. And just let all the others be civil.

We know we've grown up when the thought of Christmas without snow is not unbearable. But we truly hope that 2015 does not bring the extreme weather we've been seeing for quite some time all across the nation. And we would like to think that deniers of climate change will grow up, face the music, get religion, face facts and learn a little about science.

We hope that Stephen Colbert

As we brace for the tedium of another presidential race, let us hope that Hillary Clinton focuses less on her hair and being rich and more on what she would actually hope to do for the country.

still makes us laugh, that police officers and the citizens they help will get to know each other and that we learn to eat better, stop smoking, never text and drive and attend only the meetings that accomplish something important.

We'd like to see the economy keep improving and good jobs for everyone who wants one, because, believe it or not, Americans are happiest when they feel they are doing something that benefits society and fulfills them personally.

And we don't care one bit that Brussels sprouts are the new kale.

Ann McFeatters is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Her email address is: amcfeatters@nationalpress.com.

Don't discount a Romney run in 2016

It can be hard to take the idea of a Mitt Romney 2016 presidential run seriously. After all, this is the man who said of losing general election candidates, "They become a loser for life." At least in presidential terms, he had that mostly right.

But what to make of polls continuing to show Romney at the head of the Republican presidential pack a little more than a year before the Iowa caucuses? A new Fox News survey finds Romney the GOP leader, with 19 percent, ahead of Jeb Bush, who is pretty far back at 10 percent. Everybody else is bunched together behind Bush.

A Washington Post/ABC News poll showed a similar result, as did other recent polls from McClatchy-Marist and Quinnipiac. In all, Romney hovered around 20 percent, well ahead of the GOP field.

Many polls don't include Romney in their surveys. But the ones that do suggest that, at least for now, Romney is a front-runner, if not the front-runner in the 2016 Republican race.

People in Romney's circle realize that some of his standing in the polls reflects nothing more than name recognition; everybody knows the guy who ran for president in 2012. But they believe there's more to it than that. In discussions this week, they pointed to what they think is a widespread belief among voters, certainly among Republicans, that Romney was right about some key issues in the 2012 campaign.

"I don't really think you can objectively chalk it up to name ID," says one resident of Romneyworld. "People are saying, 'He was right.' I think that has happened in so many different ways that people are looking at it with a fresh perspective." Another Romneyworld insider points to Russia, terrorism and the economy as areas where Romney was prescient in 2012.

Some of the people who talk with Romney say they specifically avoid the subject of his running in 2016. They still believe he would be a good president, but they don't want to push. "I don't press him on it," says yet another in Romney's circle. "It's a personal decision."

"I don't bring it up," says another. "When we talk, we talk about what's going on in the world."

Some of the donors who supported Romney in 2012 aren't so shy; they're happy to tell Romney they believe he should run again. "He's being encouraged by people every day," says one confidant.

The big mystery, of course, is what Romney himself is thinking. As long as Romney keeps quiet, the outside world will be guessing. But it's probably smart to divide the question into two parts.

The first is what Romney thinks about the actual decision to run or not to run. That, nobody knows. The second is what Romney thinks about who would be the best president. That's not so mysterious. Romney ran in 2012 because he believed he was the best man for the job. There's no indication he has changed his mind.

Those close to Romney don't believe the recent moves by Jeb Bush, who now says he is "actively exploring" a presidential run, will have any effect on Romney. A bigger question will be whether a leader emerges in the GOP field to bring Republican voters together.

"One of the luxuries he has is he doesn't have to necessarily make up his mind and make a decision right now," says one. "He can take stock of the field and how it develops."

So here is a scenario. The Republican race that develops in 2015 is splintered and unhappy, with no candidate gaining the stature and respect needed to make a good nominee. The campaign becomes a protracted fight that diminishes each of its participants. Party leaders look for a savior. Romney is there.

It probably won't happen. And Romney knows – we know he knows because he has said as much – that a political figure who has a halo around his head when he is out of the fray will be just another punching bag if he gets in.

Still, there are the polls. And, for some of those around Romney, the hope. Right now, all they know is that there is a chance – maybe a tiny one, but a chance – of another run.

"I can't really put any kind of prediction on it," says one of the Romneyworld insiders of the possibility that Romney will run again. "I wouldn't say there is zero chance of it. I would definitely not say it is zero."

Byron York is chief political correspondent for The Washington Examiner.



Byron York

ANOTHER OPINION

Don't blame protesters for NY police officer slayings

Without sufficient thought and care, the nation could too easily allow the cruel ambush killings last weekend of two New York City police officers to undermine the often tense but crucial national dialogue on race and policing that was spurred by the deaths of African American suspects earlier this year at police hands in Ferguson, Mo., Cleveland, New York, Los Angeles and elsewhere.

It is hard to know whether to see the attack on Officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu as in the same vein as other shootings of innocent people by unhinged gun-wielders – from Aurora, Colo., to Newtown, Conn., to Santa Monica – or as the baser act of a hardened criminal with a long record, contempt for human life and a hatred of police.

It is apparent from his social media posts, though, that Ismaaiyl Brinsley tried to connect himself to protests over the deaths of Michael Brown in Ferguson and Eric Garner in New York. And unfortunately, some police officers, shaken no doubt by the killing of their colleagues, are making the same connection Brinsley did. New York police union chief Patrick Lynch, for example, lashed out at "those who incited violence on the street in the guise of protest."

But it is utterly unreasonable to suggest that people who have been protesting the use of excessive force by police are somehow responsible for provoking the actions of a cop-killer. To follow Lynch's argument to its logical conclusion, communities that have felt the brunt of abusive police tactics must not object, lest their demonstrations incite criminals or the deranged to attack police. That's a non-starter. There is a conversation taking place on race and policing, and it necessarily will include protests against injustice, real or perceived.

If that conversation is to hold any promise of being productive or transformative, it is important for Americans to remember that police officers each day face the prospect of the kind of attack that took the lives of Ramos and Liu. It is equally important for police to keep in mind that many people, especially in African American communities, likewise fear violence daily, not just from criminals but from the very officers sworn to protect them. That fear is based on decades of racially biased policing, not all of it relegated to the past. And there is reason for concern among all Americans that, while violent crime is declining, the killing of suspects by police is increasing.

New York Mayor Bill de Blasio was correct to call for a timeout from protests, pending the funerals of the slain officers. Going forward, though, the dialogue must continue.

— Los Angeles Times



Sometimes the oddest sports lead to the most fun

By REG HENRY
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (TNS)

Because writing a personal column for a newspaper is a solitary, self-centered activity, it may come as a surprise that I consider myself a team player in almost every other aspect of my life, at work or play – even in marriage, where my wife is the captain and I am the team.

Indeed, I like to be a member of a team so much that I have played competitive sports a lot longer than my dubious talents or my accumulation of years would advise.

The only personal touch to my sports career is that the sports I have been drawn to are somewhat goofy, at least in the American context. Not to boast, but I dare anyone to match the range of my eccentric sports participation. Only if you try your hand at croquet, show jumping and curling will I be impressed, as I have my own trio of odd athletic endeavors.

For some years past, I have been a bowler – but, of course, not the regular sort of bowling. I have been a duckpin bowler.

What distinguishes duckpin bowling from 10-pin bowling is the size of the ball. In 10-pin bowling, the balls are large and have finger holes. In duckpins, the balls are small and have no finger holes.

The duckpins also have rubber bands (gum bands, in Pittsburghese) around them to make it easier for ducks to pick them up in their beaks if they stray onto the lanes. In truth, I do not know what duckpin bowling has to do with ducks. I often remark "Lord love a duck!" as I send yet another ball into the gutter, but that is just me.

What duckpin bowling has in

common with my other sports is that I am lousy at it. If defeat is good for the soul, this column is being written by Mother Teresa.

What I am good at is eating potato chips. Fortunately, an excellent bartender stands ready in case I become too salty. So my teammates tolerate me and it is wonderful to be in their company.

It's the same with paddle tennis – also called platform tennis. Paddle tennis is played with a rubber ball on a court that resembles a tennis court but is smaller and enclosed with chicken wire.

If the wire were not there, chickens might stroll onto the court like ducks, but that is not its only use: The ball can be played off the wire, which makes the game tennis on steroids. The paddle, of course, is not flexible and can be used for S&M purposes if couples so choose after the game.

Not me. As always, I compete for the good, clean fun and the chance to play in a howling blizzard or freezing rain – followed by sandwiches and beer with my frostbitten pals in the paddle hut afterward. Ah, it's a fine game if you can ward off the pneumonia. I am better at that than hitting the ball.

In summer, I play cricket, which makes a nice change. Cricket is a popular game around the world, but the people who play it here tend to be various exiles from British-influenced culture. I played cricket in Australia as a boy, but my most recent teammates were from India and Pakistan.

Ten years ago, a bunch of us in Pittsburgh formed a competitive league, which has been outstandingly successful. The number of teams has more than tripled. I

Write us

Here's how to submit a letter to the editor:

E-mail: letters@TheHP.com

Regular mail: Editorial Page, The Herald-Palladium, P.O. Box 128, St. Joseph, MI 49085

Fax: 269-429-4398

All letters should include a daytime telephone number and street address for verification. The Herald-Palladium reserves the right to edit letters for length, style, grammar, inappropriate content and libel. Anonymous letters will not be published.

am prouder of my role as one of the founders of the Pittsburgh Cricket Association than any of my numerous journalism awards – even the coveted ones such as for most creative expenses and best clarification/correction.

I was honored that my expatriate friends gave me a Lifetime Achievement Award at their last banquet, which was especially touching since I never achieved much with the bat and ball. I was just a team player. As a bonus, cricket to me was an opportunity to pick up some useful Hindi words such as "shabash," which is a shout of encouragement. I think it means, "Here we go, Steelers!"

The sadness is that soon I will be moving to a part of California where duckpins, paddle tennis and cricket are scarce. Instead, I will have to play golf, which I like well enough but to me seems a bit pedestrian by comparison, especially when you don't take a cart. Remind me to ask my team captain about curling.

Reg Henry is deputy editorial-page editor for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

Americans’ love of snacks has spread beyond Twinkies

By DANIEL AKST

Symbols matter, which is why it’s important to acknowledge that our truest national emblem isn’t an eagle or a dollar sign or even a handgun, though each will have its proponents.

No, I see a partially unwrapped Twinkie, draped alluringly in cellophane, surrounded by sports drinks. Or a take-out pizza studded with Fritos, a single slice drawn forth with strings of cheese still connecting it to the pie as a metaphor for our shared devotion to fat.

Our national symbol, in other words, really ought to be a snack. Once a rare treat associated with special events such as fairs or birthday parties, snacking is now something akin to a national sport. In a recent article about soaring sales of snack foods, the Wall Street Journal cited government data showing that, while only 10 percent of Americans snacked three or more times a day in the late 1970s, the figure had risen to 56 percent in 2010.

Can it really be that low? Snacks seem to be every-

where, and in fact Hartman Group, a market research firm, found in a 2013 survey that 90 percent of consumers snack multiple times daily. In my experience, no gathering of small children is complete unless a parent has been designated to bring the snacks, as if a bunch of kids, who were made to run around, would expire from the slightest exertion without frequent doses of fat and carbohydrates.

Many snacks are nutritionally dubious, yet increasingly they are crowding out traditional breakfasts, lunches and dinners. About half of Americans replace meals with snacks at least three to four times a week, Hartman discovered. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, meanwhile, says American kids take in nearly 200 more calories a day from snacks than they did in the 1970s. No wonder so many are overweight.

But of course this isn’t just about food, for snacks, having turned eating into an empty sacrament, are now the most reliable insignia of our culture. Just the other day, I read that the owner of



Thinkstock

the New Republic wanted it to publish more “snackable” items. His staff quit en masse over his larger plans for the venerable publication, but can anyone doubt he had his finger on the American pulse? The market value of Twitter, with its 140 character limit, is around \$23 billion, versus perhaps \$2 billion for New York Times Co.

Once you start looking, it’s hard not to see snacking everywhere. Many of us who listen to music now prefer songs to albums, a preference abetted by the digital revolution in music distribution. In some quarters, at least, hookups are preferable to enduring rela-

tionships or even temporary monogamy. Disposable fashion from stores such as H&M, backed by Chinese manufacturing, has enabled us to snack on clothing.

Or thumb through almost any magazine; you’ll be struck by its hyperkinetic tenor – all those bite-sized items studded with sprightly images, like canapes topped with nuts. Magazines are full of this stuff, which makes them feel as if they offer a meal of hors d’oeuvres compared with the feast of text many once cooked up on their glossy pages.

The Internet, of course, has promoted snacking. As I write this, email alerts

come and go, inviting me to take a break and snack on a little human interaction. I like reading books on an iPad, but the temptation to snack on some tweets after every few paragraphs can be hard to resist. Snacking can be habit-forming; any online document that I encounter longer than a screen full of text sets me to skimming impatiently.

We gravitate toward snacks because they’re fast, easy and require little commitment. They also taste good. Online, snackable items are easily digested by grazing readers, and just as easily shared – the way we once shared meals. In keeping with our demand for flexibility and immediate gratification, snacks are always available, require little investment and can be consumed without the time and consideration that used to go into more primitive forms of nourishment, such as sit-down dinners or books.

It’s been said that you are what you eat, and in some sense we Americans are becoming snacks, at least to the businesses that consume

our labor. Companies that once had lasting relationships with workers nowadays often prefer outside contractors, or employees who can be rescheduled – or terminated – at the whim of management. Firms, in other words, prefer to snack on labor, a practice that makes it all the more difficult for workers to schedule (or pay for) meals.

Snacking suits the way we live – Hartman says 40 percent of adult meals excluding snacks are eaten alone – but it isn’t always satisfying. Even if they fill us up, snacks mostly just bloat us with their emptiness, which in turn leaves us wanting something more. Maybe it would be better if we waited for dinner, the way we used to, and then sat down to eat it with somebody we care about.

I’m going to work on this, I swear, just as soon as I grab a microwave chimichanga to tide me over. While I’m at it, I wonder what’s happening on Twitter?

Daniel Akst is an author and former Los Angeles Times columnist. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

POINT-COUNTERPOINT

Did Obama get short-changed on deal with Castros?



AP photos

Yes Big losers are Cubans yearning to breathe free; U.S. credibility

By JAMES JAY CARAFANO

President Obama’s decision to make nice with Cuba’s repressive, anti-American regime creates a great number of losers.

Topping the list, of course, are the people of Cuba. They are starting from a bad place, lacking fundamental freedoms. And Mr. Obama negotiated no promises from the Castro brothers to ease up on the repression.

That leaves Cubans saddled with the second most repressive economy in the world, according to the “2014 Index of Economic Freedom” published by The Heritage Foundation and The Wall Street Journal.

It offers no relief from the Freedom House assessment of Cubans’ political rights and civil liberties – “Not Free.” It leaves them mired in 170th place – out of 180 countries – in Reporters Without Borders’ rankings of press freedoms.

The claim that opening markets will transform Cuba is utterly bogus. The kleptocracy that runs the country will figure out how to exploit every dollar that flows in – just as they have managed to funnel every incoming cent of foreign money through the government sieve. Opening a new cash flow will only allow the regime to further enrich itself and dig in deeper.

Opening markets cannot magically transform totalitarian regimes into democracies – at least, not as long as the rulers maintain a stranglehold over civil society.

Look at China. The ruling elite has embraced many free market policies,

yet freedom is waning on the Chinese mainland and Beijing is now squeezing it out of Hong Kong, too.

Or consider Russia. It, too, embraced Western economic reforms after the Cold War. Yet Putin resurrected strongman rule and has turned his country into a Gulag-lite.

Does anyone seriously believe that tourists buying cigars in Havana will convince the Cuban cabal to change its ways?

Sure, some U.S. companies will turn a profit doing business in a country under the thumb of thugs. But they could just as well make that money elsewhere.

If the Obama Administration were really interested in boosting American business it would cut needlessly costly regulations, reform the tax code and green-light initiatives like the Keystone XL pipeline that can generate American jobs and lower consumer prices here at home.

Instead, America loses under this decision. It strengthens an odious regime that aids our enemies. Cuba encourages

and supports some of the most anti-American countries on earth, from Venezuela and Iran to North Korea.

Just last year, authorities intercepted a ship bound from Havana and purportedly bearing a “humanitarian gift of sugar from Cuba to the North Korean people.” Hidden under the sugar were other gifts, including fighter jet parts, missile components, rocket-propelled weapons and ammunition.

America also loses because presidents are not supposed to take steps counter to the intent of current U.S. law without at least consulting Congress.

Not only did Obama not work with Congress on this matter, he waited until Congress had adjourned and left town before announcing he was going to “normalize” relations with Cuba.

Coming on the heels of his end-around action on immigration – extending executive amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants – the Cuban gambit destroys any chance of lawmakers working with the Oval Office in trust and

confidence for the next two years.

Finally, America loses because Obama’s deal with the dictators betrays the very thing that has made ours a truly exceptional nation.

“Unlike other nations that derive their meaning and purpose from some unifying quality – an ethnic character, a common religion, a shared history, an ancestral land – America is a country dedicated to the universal ideas of equality and liberty,” writes constitutional scholar David Azerrad.

The premise of our existence is that only government of, by and for the people is truly legitimate. When Obama embraces the Cuban regime with a sham freedom agenda, he turns American exceptionalism into American hypocrisy. Freedom-loving Cubans deserve far better than that.

A 25-year Army veteran, James Jay Carafano is vice president of Defense and Foreign Policy Studies for The Heritage Foundation (heritage.org), a conservative think-tank on Capitol Hill. Readers may write him at Heritage, 214 Massachusetts Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20002. He wrote this essay for Tribune News Service.

No Obama’s surprise present for Cuba strengthens the right of self-determination everywhere

By MARK WEISBROT

In 1992 Miami Herald commentator Andres Openheimer won a Pulitzer Prize for his book, “Castro’s Final Hour,” thus giving “new meaning to the words final and hour,” as the late filmmaker and writer Saul Landau would wryly remark many years later.

Fidel Castro would survive 11 U.S. presidents, at least eight CIA plots to assassinate him and a few premature obituaries, and live to see world’s most powerful country finally give in and recognize – in principle at least – Cuba’s right to national self-determination.

On December 17 President Obama announced that he would pursue full diplomatic relations with Cuba.

Most commentators here have missed what is the most important driving force behind this long-overdue spasm of normalcy from the north.

Since 1998, leftist governments have been elected and re-elected in one country after another until by now they govern the majority of Latin America.

Some of these new left presidents – Lula Da Silva and Dilma Rousseff of Brazil, Evo Morales of Bolivia, Jose Mujica of Uruguay – personally suffered violence and imprisonment at the hands of U.S.-backed dictatorships. They didn’t hold grudges, but all of the new left presidents had a deep appreciation for the importance of national and regional self-determination.

These left governments created new institutions such as UNASUR (the Union of South American Nations) and CELAC (the Community of Latin American and Caribbean Nations) in order to pursue these common goals.

The CELAC is an organization that was formed as an alternative to the Organization of American States, which is often dominated by Washington, and it includes all countries in the Americas except for the United States and Canada.

The CELAC was formed in response to the June 2009 military coup against the democratic president of Honduras, Mel Zelaya. The United States had manipulated the OAS in its successful efforts to prevent Zelaya from returning to office. In her recent book, “Hard Choices,” Hillary Clinton acknowledges for the first time her own role

in this effort.

Washington’s role in helping the Honduran military coup succeed really set back relations with Latin America, whose new leaders had until that point held great hopes for America’s new president, Barack Obama.

By 2014, the Obama Administration probably had the worst relationship with Latin America of any U.S. government in decades, including even the George W. Bush administration.

At the 2012 Summit of the Americas, Washington was isolated, and even President Manuel Santos of Colombia – a non-left government that remains closer to Washington than most of South America – said that there could not be another Summit without Cuba.

President Obama’s announcement is not the end of the Cold War, as some observers have concluded – not even in Latin America, let alone Russia. Obama’s announcement comes on the heels of legislation in Congress, led by the same Cuban-Americans and neo-conservatives, for sanctions against Venezuela.

The State Department will continue funding its ironically named “democracy promotion” programs in the region that seek to undermine democratic left governments. And the vast majority of Americans still can’t go to Cuba, an outrageous restriction of our own fundamental freedoms.

But the announcement is an historic change, to be sure. It is a recognition that this 54-year attempt at regime change in Cuba, which has only helped to isolate the U.S. in the region and the world, has been a complete and utter failure.

It is a defeat for the anti-Cuba lobby, which does not have much of a political base outside of their own circles – not even among the majority of Cuban Americans – and some Republican politicians.

It is a clear victory for the rule of law in international relations, and for the right of countries to self-determination. In short: a good start, and we’ll see what happens.

Mark Weisbrat is co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research (cepr.net), a think-tank dedicated to promoting debate on vital economic and social issues. He holds a doctorate in economic from the University of Michigan. Readers may write him at CEPR, 1611 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 400 Washington, DC 20009. He wrote this essay for Tribune News Service.

hp ENTERTAINMENT



David Oyelowo portrays Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in a scene from “Selma.”

Paramount Pictures photo

Portraying an icon

In ‘Selma,’ David Oyelowo digs deep to play Martin Luther King Jr.

By STEVEN ZEITCHIK
Los Angeles Times (TNS)

NEW YORK — Shortly before actor David Oyelowo began shooting the part of Martin Luther King Jr. in the new historical drama “Selma,” he set out on a video-hunting mission. Oyelowo was searching for something that would help him get under the skin of his subject — that would go beyond the polished statue of photo ops and speech clips — when the longtime King ally Andrew Young handed him a piece of unseen footage. In it, the civil rights leader could be viewed letting his guard down with friends and allies as they toured for their campaign of economic

equality; the candid material, it turns out, was shot just weeks before King was gunned down. “When Dr. King was being interviewed by the press, there was a certain demeanor, a dignified presence, he felt the need to project,” said the Nigerian-British Oyelowo. “But with this, he was just there, not putting on any of that — eating fried chicken, belching, laughing with his friends, being the prankster, the guy’s guy. And that was huge for me. It was finally a chance to see the man behind the iconography.” Landing like a firework in the midst of nationwide protests over the shooting of several unarmed black men, “Selma” eschews the

cradle-to-grave conventions of a biopic in favor of something more fresh and specific. Director Ava DuVernay’s film — which ahead of its release has already become an awards contender and a social-rallying cry — centers on three critical, sometimes-bloody months in 1965 when King and Southern Christian Leadership Conference leaders sought to organize the Selma-to-Montgomery march in segregated Alabama. In focusing tightly on King’s approach — which involved drawing attention to the cause with media-friendly incidents that, he hoped, would galvanize President Johnson to press for the Voting Rights Act — “Sel-

ma” examines the strategies as much as the speeches. In so doing, the film etches a King who’s engaging in monumental work without treating him like a monument. For the first major film ever to feature King as a lead character, moviegoers get a different civil rights leader than they might be familiar with. Oyelowo plays the man with a wide range of modes. He has an oratorical gravitas in key sermons, yes, but also a quiet defeatism when confronted by his wife about infidelity and a scrappy fighting spirit in backroom church planning sessions. And, it should be noted, they get a different kind of

See OYELOWO, page D7

Networks roll out new shows for midseason

By ROB OWEN
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (TNS)

The year’s not over yet, but TV networks already are looking ahead to 2015 and the January start of midseason. This is what’s been announced so far. Some broadcasters have additional series waiting in their cupboard but have not yet announced plans to bring them out.

ABC
“Galavant” (8 and 8:30 p.m. Jan. 4): The showrunner behind underrated comedy “The Neighbors” returns with another offbeat entry that’s a musical comedy set in medieval times. Think: Monty Python meets Mel Brooks in this story of dashing Galavant (Joshua Sasse), who loses his lady love (Mallory Jansen) to wimpy, evil King Richard (Timothy Omundson).
“Agent Carter” (8-10 p.m. Jan. 6): Another Marvel Universe spinoff, this one focuses on “Captain America” character Peggy Carter (Hayley Atwell), who in 1946 teams with industrialist Howard Stark (Dominic Cooper), father of Tony “Iron Man” Stark, and his butler Edwin (James D’Arcy, “Those Who Kill”) to track down weapons of mass destruction.
“Fresh off the Boat” (8:30 and 9:30 p.m. Feb. 4, then moves to 8 p.m. Tuesday on

See TV, page D7



IFC Films photo

Ellar Coltrane at age 6 in a scene from the film “Boyhood.”

Best and worst movies of 2014

By MICHAEL PHILLIPS
Chicago Tribune (TNS)

Two of the year’s best came from Houston-born filmmakers of very different temperaments. Yeah, yeah. It’s “Boyhood.” Out of sheer contrarian perversity, I did everything I could to avoid picking “Boyhood” as the year’s best film. It has been lauded so much already; its hype, the increasingly heavy burden of awards-generated expectation, has turned into this gentle masterwork’s worst enemy. Writer-director Richard Linklater’s story covers 12 years in the life of a young Texas boy, played by Ellar Coltrane. The film itself covers 12 years in the creative lives of Coltrane and his fellow actors; Linklater shot “Boyhood” in a compressed approximation of real time, reconvening with

his cast (including Patricia Arquette, Ethan Hawke and Linklater’s daughter, Lorelei) every year or two to film another chapter. Those who do not respond to “Boyhood” call it a novelty of mild dramatic interest. Some find Coltrane’s character, Mason, frustratingly passive; others simply struggle to engage with a film concerned with delivering the usual builds and confrontations. I hear the objections. But if you’re like me, as you watch or re-watch Linklater’s film, you may find yourself welling up from time to time for reasons you can’t even pinpoint. An hour into “Boyhood,” you realize you are not watching the film, but you’re in it, wondering: What happened? Where did the younger versions of these sweet, three-dimensionally human people go?

He was hardly the first, but Thornton Wilder said it, in “Our Town” and other plays: It’s all over very soon. In Wilder’s one-act “The Long Christmas Dinner,” 90 years in the life span of a single extended family unfold across the same dinner table. Linklater manages much the same illusion in “Boyhood,” only there are no theatrics. The movie feels like few other movies, perhaps no other movie. It revels in the everyday. We grow up. We learn joy, and sorrow, and if we’re lucky we learn to seek out the better of the two options. We take our kids to a Harry Potter midnight book launch. We elect a new president. We divorce, sometimes, and remarry. We do the best we can with our children. In one early scene,

See FILMS, page D7

PRIME TIME TV

SUNDAY EVENING DEC. 28							
	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
ABC	Funny Videos	Revenge The FBI closes in on Victoria.		Revenge "Intel" ⁸⁸		Revenge "Atonement" ⁸⁸	
(7) (13) (41) (57)							
CBS	60 Minutes "Inside the Vatican" (N)		Undercover Boss (N) ⁸⁸		The Mentalist "The Silver Briefcase" (N)		CSI: Cri. Scene
(2) (3) (22)							
NBC	:00 Football Night in America (N) ⁸⁸		:20 NFL Football Cincinnati Bengals at Pittsburgh Steelers.				
(5) (8) (16)							
FOX	The OT (N) (L)	The Simpsons (N) (L)	Brooklyn Nine-Nine	Family Guy	Bob's Burgers	Fox 17 News at 10:00PM (N) ⁸⁸	
(17) (28) (32)							
PBS	Downton Abbey	The Great British Baking Show "Cake"			Masterpiece Classic Lady Rose meets the Prince of Wales. ⁸⁸ (DVS)		
(34)							
CW	Big Bang Theory	*** Win a Date With Tad Hamilton! (04) Kate Bosworth, Topher Grace			News	King of Queens	
(25)							
MNT	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Laughs ⁸⁸	Anger
(50)							
WCIU	Mike & Molly	Mr. Box Office	Mr. Box Office	The First Family	The First Family	Family Guy	Raising Hope
(26)							
WHME	Partners in Faith	Paid Program	Jack Van Impe	Perry Stone	End of the Age	Joyce Meyer	Israel Tour Feb
(46)							
WSBT	The Good Wife	Three Stooges	Three Stooges	Three Stooges	Three Stooges	News	Buck McNeeley
(22)							
A&E	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	:31 Storage Wars
AMC	:36 Breaking Bad "Bit by a Dead Bee"		:40 Breaking Bad "Down" ⁸⁸		:44 Breaking Bad Tensions mount at the White household.		
Animal	Bigfoot	Finding Bigfoot		:02 Finding Bigfoot (N) ⁸⁸			
BET	Game	Game	Game	Game	Game	:12 The Game ⁸⁸	
Big Ten	Big Ten	College Basketball Buffalo at Wisconsin. (N)			University	Big Ten	
Bravo	Housewives/Atl.	The Real Housewives of Atlanta (N)		The Real Housewives of Atlanta		The Real Housewives of Atlanta	
Cartoon	Regular	Sit Down	King/Hill	King/Hill	Burgers	Burgers	Fam. Guy
Cinemax	6:00 ⁸⁸ Red 2	*** Hulk (03, Fantasy) Eric Bana. Scientist Bruce Banner transforms into a powerful brute. ⁸⁸					:20 ⁸⁸ Riddick
CMT	Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.
CNBC	On	60 Minutes on CNBC		60 Minutes on CNBC		Costco Craze	
CNN	The Six	The Sixties		The Sixties "1968"		The Sixties	
Comedy	6:20 ⁸⁸ *** Shallow Hal			Dave Chappelle		Kevin Hart: Laugh	
CSNC	Sports	Bensinger	Poker	World Poker		Heartland Poker	
Discovery	Last Frontier	Alaska: The Last Frontier ⁸⁸		Alaska: The Last Frontier (N) ⁸⁸		Edge of Alaska: Legends of the North (N)	
Disney	Girl	*** High School Musical (06) ⁸⁸				Jessie	Rebels
DIY	Rehab	Rehab	Rehab	Salvage	Salvage	Salvage	Salvage
E!	Hamptons	Take the Hamptons		Take the Hamptons		Take the Hamptons	
Encore	Monsters University	*** Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby (06) Will Ferrell, ITV. ⁸⁸				9:50 ⁸⁸ * Joe Dirt (01) iTV. ⁸⁸	
ESPN	:00 SportsCenter (N)	30 for 30 ⁸⁸					Champs
ESPN2	Games	World/Poker		World/Poker		World/Poker	
ESPNC	Bozella	The Real Rocky		The Dotted Line		30 for 30 ⁸⁸	
Family	5:30 ⁸⁸ *** Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1			*** Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2 (11) Daniel Radcliffe.			
Food	Grocery	Guy's Games		Cutthroat Kitchen		Cutthroat Kitchen (N)	
Fox News	Report	Huckabee		Man-Bin Laden		Man-Bin Laden	
Fox Sports	Game 365	World Poker		UFC Unleashed (N)		World Poker	
FX	*** Just Go With It (11) Adam Sandler, Jennifer Aniston. A man's careless lie spins out of control.					*** Grown Ups (10) Adam Sandler.	
G4	Tough	Wrecking	Wrecking	Wrecking	Wrecking	Soup	Soup
Golf	:00 PGA Tour Golf Tour Championship, Final Round.						
Hallmark	Brid-Christmas	*** Let It Snow (13) Candace Cameron Bure. An executive has a change of heart.				*** Christmas Under Wraps (14)	
HBO	:35 ⁸⁸ *** Divergent (14, Science Fiction) Shailene Woodley, Theo James, Ashley Judd. ⁸⁸					The Comeback (F) (N) ⁸⁸	
History	Pickers	Ax Men ⁸⁸		Ax Men (N) ⁸⁸		Alaska Off-Road	
HGTV	Property	Hawaii	Hawaii	Beach	Beach	Hunters	Hunt Intl
Learning	90 Day	90 Day Fiance		90 Day Fiance (N)		TLC's Year of Love	
Lifetime	:00 ⁸⁸ The Assault (14) ⁸⁸			*** Nanny Cam (14) Laura Allen. ⁸⁸			
MSNBC	Caught	Pot Barons		Pot Barons		Pot Barons	
MTV	Clueless	*** The Princess Diaries (01) Julie Andrews.				Princess	
NFL	NFL GameDay High.	NFL GameDay High.		NFL GameDay High.		GameDay	
Nick	Swindle	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	Prince	Prince
NCEO	Life Be	Life Below Zero		Life Below Zero		Ultimate Survival	
Oxygen	:00 Snapped	Snapped A young Marine goes missing.		Snapped "Wendy Cobb" (N)		Snapped "Whitehead Twins"	
Showtime	August: Osage	*** Lincoln (12) Daniel Day-Lewis. Lincoln takes measures to ensure the end of slavery forever.				Lee-Butler	
Spike	Indiana Jones	Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull					
Starz	:10 Black Sails "V."	:10 Black Sails Chasing the Andromache.		:10 Black Sails "VII." (iTV) ⁸⁸		:10 Black Sails "VIII." (iTV) ⁸⁸	
SyFy	:00 ⁸⁸ Lake Placid 3 (10) Colin Ferguson, Yancy Butler.			*** Lake Placid: The Final Chapter (12, Horror) Robert Englund, Yancy Butler.			
TBS	Meet the Fockers	*** Four Christmases (08) Vince Vaughn, Reese Witherspoon. (DVS)				*** Four Christmases (08)	
TCM	Adam's Rib (49)	*** Dark Passage (47) Humphrey Bogart, Lauren Bacall. ⁸⁸ (DVS)				*** Lady in the Lake (46) ⁸⁸	
TMC	Welcome-Pnch	Raze (13, Action) Zoe Bell, Rachel Nichols. ⁸⁸		:35 ⁸⁸ *** Hostel (06, Horror) Jay Hernandez. ⁸⁸			
TNT	*** Red	The Librarians (N)		*** Red (10, Action) Bruce Willis.			
Travel	Food Par.	The Layover		The Layover		No Reservation	
TV Land	FamFeud	FamFeud	FamFeud	Raymond	Raymond	King	King
USA	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	
VH1	Hip Hop	Love & Hip Hop		*** Daddy's Little Girls (07)			
WGN-A	:00 ⁸⁸ *** Man on Fire (04) Denzel Washington.			:35 ⁸⁸ *** Thirteen Ghosts (01) Tony Shalhoub. ⁸⁸			

TV THIS WEEK

‘The Great British Baking Show’

Tonight: “The Great British Baking Show,” a huge hit in the U.K., finally crosses the pond. It’s an ultra-tasty competition that has 12 amateur bakers vying for culinary supremacy. 8 p.m., PBS.

‘The Comeback’

Tonight: In the season finale of “The Comeback,” it’s Emmy time and Valerie (Lisa Kudrow) is basking in the glow of her performance in “Seeing Red.” But will her husband be by her side on the most important night of her life? 10 p.m., HBO.

‘Happy New Year Charlie Brown’

Monday: Good grief. In “Happy New Year Charlie Brown,” our lovable blockhead has the unenviable task of writing a book report on “War and Peace.” Too bad all he can think about is the little red-haired girl. 8 p.m., ABC.

‘Branson Famous’

Monday: “Branson Famous” is being touted as the first-ever “reality musical.” It goes behind the sequin-laden scenes of the longest-running variety show in Branson, Mo., with the song-loving family that runs it. 10 p.m., TruTV.

‘Kennedy Center Honors’

Tuesday: Stephen Colbert is our host for the 37th annual Kennedy Center Honors. This year’s lavish gala celebrates the cultural contributions of soul singer Al Green, film star Tom Hanks, ballerina Patricia

McBride, singer-songwriter Sting and comedian Lily Tomlin. 9 p.m., CBS.

New Year’s Eve celebrations

Wednesday: There’s no shame in staying home and partying in front of your TV set, as long as you’ve got someone to vacuum up the confetti. As usual, the networks will ring in the new year with several festive specials including the venerable mainstay, “Dick Clark’s Primetime New Year’s Rockin’ Eve With Ryan Seacrest” (8 p.m. Dec. 31, ABC), which features Taylor Swift as the headlining act. The lineup also includes “Pitbull’s New Year’s Revolution” (8 p.m., Fox), “New Year’s Eve Live With Anderson Cooper and Kathy Griffin” (9 p.m., CNN) and “New Year’s Eve with Carson Daly” (10 p.m., NBC).

‘Billy Joel: The Library of Congress Gershwin Prize’

Friday: “Billy Joel: The Library of Congress Gershwin Prize” celebrates the piano man’s hit-laden career. The 90-minute special features performances by, among others, Tony Bennett, Boys II Men, Josh Groban, Natalie Maines, John Mellencamp and LeAnn Rimes. 9 p.m., PBS.

‘The Missing’

Saturday: As “The Missing” nears its conclusion, the case takes a sudden turn when another young boy disappears. The gripping miniseries was recently nominated for a Golden Globe Award. 9 p.m., Starz.

— From HP Staff and Wire reports



Ava DuVernay, right, director of the film “Selma,” and David Oyelowo, who portrays Martin Luther King Jr., pose together at the Four Seasons Hotel in Los Angeles.

OYELOWO

From page D6

actor through which to see him. The 38-year-old Oyelowo (the name is pronounced as it's spelled, which doesn't make it any easier to say) is a performer with outspoken views on race and Hollywood; a debonair Oxford-born Brit far from the Atlanta-raised pastor he's bringing to life; and a man with such a strong Christian bent he says he believed God chose him to play this role.

On a recent morning, Oyelowo was in a hotel restaurant here, the latest stop on a tour that has him crisscrossing the country not unlike his real-life subject. If the putative reason is holiday film promotion, the cause is more serious. It is a chance to stand up at word-of-mouth screenings and talk about the injustice and nonviolent responses of a half-century ago as a similar drama plays outside the theaters.

"We wrapped the second of July, and Michael Brown was killed on the ninth of August," Oyelowo said. "I'm at one screening and I'm standing there 30 minutes after the verdict that Darren Wilson wasn't going to be indicted in Ferguson. People watching this film think we made it after Ferguson. King was cut down because they knew what impact his message would have and how it would completely change this country, and here we are with this movie able to talk his strategy of love in the face of hate."

Oyelowo said to convey that message he sought to pull back the curtain, a kind of inspiration through demystification.

"What's this guy like at

home with his wife and kids?" Oyelowo said. "He's not talking in a vibrato about taking out the trash. Where are his doubts, his guilt, his need to walk away? Those are the reasons to do a film about Dr. King. Because otherwise, there is documentary footage and books. You don't need this movie."

At the same time, Oyelowo said, he wanted to avoid the tics of fact-based acting, in which mannerisms and other physical manifestations can stand in for more subtle performance skills. "What I tried to do was embody, not do an impersonation or an impression."

That approach seemed to work for those who can judge it best — the people who knew and studied King. When the long-serving Congressman John Lewis (D-Ga.), one of the so-called Big Six Civil Rights leaders who was instrumental in Selma, came to the film's Atlanta set one day, he sat in the back of a church and found himself conflating a real past with a constructed present.

King, he believed, was preaching in front of him. "When they stopped filming, I walked up to David and hugged him, and we both started crying," Lewis said. "Everyone around us thought we lost our mind."

DuVernay said she would find herself doing double-takes in the edit room.

"I would look at some of the stuff he was doing, and there didn't seem to be a shred of David in it except his body, and even that changed," she said, alluding to the weight the actor added and movements that more closely resembled King's.

Martin Luther King III, who bears a resemblance to

his father, offered the most potent endorsement. "He was able to capture the essence of my dad."

Whether that means Oyelowo will be embraced by audiences is another matter. Playing an icon can be a dangerous game: You have the benefits of filmgoers coming in with a built-in sense of reverence, but you also have to live up to a fixed idea in their minds (or worse, run the risk of seeming like you're trying too hard to replicate it).

Oyelowo first read Paul Webb's "Selma" script in 2007. The movie took a wide path to the screen; despite producers who included Brad Pitt and eventually Winfrey, versions with Steven Spielberg, Paul Greengrass and Lee Daniels all failed to get off the ground, until Oyelowo helped bring on DuVernay last year. The film was financed independently via the French sales company Pathe; Paramount came aboard later to distribute it.

The film is not officially endorsed by the King family, though members have been supportive (speeches were written by the filmmakers and not licensed from the King archives). And despite being virtually unknown in 2007, Oyelowo, a devout Christian who will often pray on sets, said he heard a voice tell him that he would play the role.

"I knew that voice, because it was the same voice that told me to marry my wife, the same voice that told me to give names to my children before they were even conceived," he recalled. "This is how God has spoken to me in the past. And it's what kept me going even though directors at the time didn't want me."

comes from the Turkish auteur (who co-wrote with his wife, Ebru Ceylan) and continues the filmmaker's uncanny insight into male schmuckdom. A pompous hotelier and his dissatisfied wife find themselves at a crossroads. Can this be enough to sustain a three-plus hour drama, spiced with rueful comedy? Yet it is. It won the Palme d'Or at Cannes this year, and I'm with Jane Campion, who headed the Cannes jury: I would've been happy with another hour or two, so assured and fresh is this director's eye.

4. "Whiplash," directed by Damien Chazelle. Writer-director Chazelle's tightly wound melodrama speaks to anyone who ever believed, rightly or wrongly, in a fearsome mentor figure. Unnerving, propulsive, alive.

5. "The Lego Movie," directed by Phil Lord and Christopher Miller. The best American comedy of the year is also a gleeful argument for product placement so aggressive, ingrained and blatant, it becomes more like product implant.

6. "Listen Up Philip," directed by Alex Ross Perry. The rising young novelist (Jason Schwarzman) of Perry's fabulously acidic comedy goes the extra mile in alienating everyone in his life, including himself. Sounds unendurable, and yet "Listen Up Philip" — with a fierce and true performance from Elisabeth Moss in support — is an oddly buoyant experience.

7. "Force Majeure," directed by Ruben Ostlund. We reveal our true selves in crisis. Writer-director Ost-

lund's inspired comedy of cowardice, set in the French Alps, knows exactly where it's going every second, even if we don't.

8. "Mr. Turner," directed by Mike Leigh. The year 2014 brought an astonishing number of films exploring artistic obsession and ego, none more plaintive than Leigh's portrait of English painter J.M.W. Turner. Timothy Spall enjoys a career-best showcase role.

9. "Dear White People," directed by Justin Simien. A racially offensive frat party at a fictional Ivy League school leads to slyly funny ramifications in this sprawling ensemble comedy — a tremendous calling card for its writer-director.

10. "Heaven Knows What," directed by Josh and Benny Safdie. It'll find its way to a theater or two sometime in 2015, but this intense prow alongside heroin addicts and street people in New York is a unique and remarkable experience.

11-30, alphabetically: "The Babadook," "Black Box," "Finding Vivian Maier," "Frank," "Get on Up," "Goodbye to Language," "Ida," "Inherent Vice," "Le Week-end," "Life Itself," "Love Is Strange," "Low Down," "The Missing Picture," "National Gallery," "Obvious Child," "The Overnighters," "Selma," "Snowpiercer," "The Tribe," "Under the Skin."

Worst 10: "Left Behind," "A Million Ways to Die in the West," "The Nut Job," "Horns," "And So It Goes," "The Identical," "Winter's Tale," "Sex Tape," "Muppets Most Wanted," "Sin City: A Dame to Kill For."

TV

From page D6

Feb. 10): Fish-out-of-water comedy set in 1995 and based on the memoir by chef/restauranteur Eddie Huang.

"Secrets and Lies" (9 p.m. March 1): Ryan Phillippe stars as a suburban murder suspect who's being investigated by a detective (Juliette Lewis).

"American Crime" (10 p.m. March 5): Felicity Huffman ("Desperate Housewives") and Timothy Hutton ("Leverage") star in this crime drama with racial and socioeconomic undertones from Oscar-winning screenwriter John Ridley ("12 Years a Slave"), who wrote and directed the pilot.

Returning: "The Bachelor" (8 p.m. Jan. 5), "Once Upon a Time" (8 p.m. March 1), "Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D." (9 p.m. March 3).

CBS

"The Odd Couple" (8:30 p.m. Feb. 19): Just prior to the one-hour conclusion of "Two and a Half Men," CBS launches a remake of the Tony Randall-Jack Klugman sitcom starring Matthew Perry (as Oscar) and Thomas Lennon (as Felix).

"Battle Creek" (10 p.m. March 1): Two weeks after the 2014-15 season finale of "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," CBS debuts this smarter-than-the-average procedural created by Vince Gilligan ("Breaking Bad") and run by David Shore ("House") that follows the work adventures of mismatched Michigan law enforcement officers played by Josh Duhamel and Dean Cain.

"CSI: Cyber" (10 p.m. March 4): "Stalker" takes a break so CBS can premiere the latest "CSI" spinoff. This one stars Patricia Arquette ("Medium") as head of the cyber crime division of the FBI. James Van Der Beek ("Dawson's Creek") and Peter MacNicol ("Ally McBeal") co-star.

"The Late Late Show With James Corden" (12:37 a.m. March 23): With Craig Ferguson stepping down after tonight's broadcast, another Brit takes over CBS's late, late show.

The CW

The CW, which is having its best season in years thanks to the success of "The Flash," has two scripted dramas, "iZombie" and "The Messengers," waiting in the wings, but no air dates have been announced.

Returning: "Masters of Illusion" (8 p.m. Jan. 9).

Fox

"Empire" (9 p.m. Jan. 7): Drama about a family dynasty in the music business that stars Taraji P. Henson ("Person of Interest") and is executive produced by director Lee Daniels ("Precious") and writer Danny Strong ("Game Change").

"World's Funniest Fails" (8 p.m. Jan. 16): A viral video show based on the YouTube channel FailArmy, in which each week comedians analyze the videos and rate one the "Fail of the Week."

"Backstrom" (9 p.m. Jan. 22): Rainn Wilson ("The Office") stars in this crime procedural as an unhealthy, offensive but brilliant detective, the latest attempt to clone "House."

"The Last Man on Earth" (9 and 9:30 p.m. March 1): Will Forte stars as the last hope for humanity in an end-of-the-world comedy from the writers of "The Lego Movie."

"Weird Loners" (9:30 p.m. March 31): Four singletons form a bond in Queens, N.Y., in this comedy starring Becki Newton ("Ugly Betty"), Zachary Knighton ("Happy Endings") and Nate Torrence ("Hello Ladies").

Returning: "MasterChef Junior" (8 p.m. Jan. 6), "American Idol XIV" (8 p.m. Jan. 7), "Glee" (8 p.m. Jan. 9), "The Following" (8 p.m. March 2), "Hell's Kitchen" (8 p.m. March 3), "Bones" (8 p.m. March 26).

NBC

"Allegiance" (10 p.m. Feb. 5): Airing after "The Blacklist," this spy drama might sound familiar to fans of FX's "The Americans": An idealistic CIA analyst (Gavin Stenhouse) learns his parents (Scott Cohen, Hope Davis) are deactivated Soviet spies who have been re-enlisted.

"The Slap" (8 p.m. Feb. 12): An eight-episode "event series" about guests at a party — one of whom slaps a child, leading to threats of legal action. Zachary Quinto ("Star Trek") stars alongside Peter Sarsgaard, Uma Thurman, Thandie Newton, Melissa George and Thomas Sadoski.

"One Big Happy" (9:30 p.m. March 17): Ellen DeGeneres executive produces this comedy about lesbian Lizzy (Elisha Cuthbert, "Happy Endings") and her best guy friend Luke (Nick Zano, "2 Broke Girls") who decide to start a non-traditional family. Then Luke falls in love with a British woman (Kelly Brook, "Smallville") who's due to return home in a few days just as Lizzy learns she's pregnant.

"A.D." (9 p.m. April 5): A sequel to executive producer Mark Burnett's "The Bible" miniseries on History, this 12-hour follow-up explores the lives of Christ's followers after his death.

"Odyssey" (10 p.m. April 5): An international conspiracy thriller that brings together a single mother soldier (Anna Friel, "Pushing Daisies"), a former U.S. attorney (Peter Facinelli, "Nurse Jackie") and a political activist (Jake Robbinson, "The Carrie Diaries").

Returning: "Celebrity Apprentice" (9 p.m. Jan. 4), "Parks and Recreation" (8 and 8:30 p.m. Jan. 13), "The Blacklist" (after the Super Bowl on Feb. 1 and then moving to 9 p.m. Thursday on Feb. 5), "The Night Shift" (10 p.m. Feb. 23), "Undateable" (9 p.m. March 17).

FILMS

From page D6

Hawke's character, an every-other-weekend parent, picks up his son and daughter for a trip to the bowling alley. He hits them with questions: How's school? How's everything? The kids eke out a few monosyllabic answers; the father retaliates by saying, no. Gimme more. But the kids persuade him to take it easy. He realizes they're right, and he vows to "let it happen more naturally."

And this is what Linklater accomplishes in the best film of 2014. If North Korean leader Kim Jong Un could just take his mind off "The Interview" for two hours and 45 minutes and give "Boyhood" a try, he'd probably change his mind about America and its movies.

Top 10

1. "Boyhood," directed by Richard Linklater. For the reasons cited above.

2. "The Grand Budapest Hotel," directed by Wes Anderson. What is it this year with Houston-born filmmakers? Like Richard Linklater, Anderson — the obsessively stylized yin to Linklater's relaxed yang — is a Texas writer-director doing the best work of his life. The first time I saw Anderson's whirligig, imagining a Europe that never was, I had a few problems with the anachronisms. A second viewing, richly rewarded, essentially made hash of my objections. Delightful.

3. "Winter Sleep," directed by Nuri Bilge Ceylan. The longest great film of the year

Life is Better Among FRIENDS



509 Ship Street
St. Joseph, MI 49085
(269) 983-2513
www.whitcombretirement.com

Small stories of 2014 offer their own lessons, sort of

Before we turn to a new calendar page, 2014 merits a look back at some of the least important stories, which means they won't be nearly as depressing as the really important stories. At best, a look at the lighter side may provide some comic relief; at worst, you may conclude things really are as bad as you thought.



Lori Borgman

It was a good year for bacon lovers, who celebrated the debut of Naked Bacon Cooking Armor. It's a red contraption that looks like Superman's skivvies. Die-hard bacon lovers who enjoy cooking in the nude can now cook fully protected. Well, not fully, but you know. What a relief.

Colorado legalized recreational marijuana, giving a new nuance to "Rocky Mountain High." Residents say the average speed on the interstate is now 30 mph – and that's in the high-speed lane.

Flappy Bird became one of the most downloaded free games, generating \$50,000 a day in ad sales according to the game's Vietnam-based developer Dong

Nguyen. The game was not only highly popular but, for many, highly addictive. Feeling guilty over the addictive nature and overuse of the game, Nguyen removed it from the market.

Eighty-nine-year-old Delores Dennison of Ohio attended her first prom this past spring. Her 19-year-old great-grandson knew she'd never been to a prom, so this knockout Eagle Scout invited her to his. Delores wore a blue dress and carried a small clutch with her nitro and puffer. Austin led his great-grandma to the dance floor, where he surprised her with a song he had chosen for the occasion: "I Love the Kisses of Delores," a song Delores' husband used to sing to her.

George Prior, 50 (old enough to know better), began drinking 10 cans of Coke every day for a month to see how it would affect him. He gained weight. Shocker. Hey, George, if someone suggests you repeat that with a fifth of whiskey, don't do it.

The day before Thanksgiving, a female passenger boarded an early morning US Airways flight with her emotional support pig. Yes, you read that right. Turns out the pig was more emotional than supportive. The

pig began squealing and then relieved itself on the floor. Passengers objected. The flight crew directed the passenger to deplane and that little piggy went wee, wee, wee all the way home.

In November, 17-year-old Abby Snodgrass made news in a Missouri Wal-Mart when she heard associates talking over a radio about someone needing CPR in electronics. She raced over, saw an 11-month-old not breathing and began doing CPR for children, which she had just learned in health class. The baby revived. Rarely does a Wal-Mart shopper see such stellar customer service.

A television anchor in Sydney, Australia, revealed that he wore the same blue suit every day for a year on air and nobody noticed. Upon hearing this news, seven out of 10 married men turned to their wives and said, "I told you I could wear these pants another day."

As we say goodbye to 2014, it seems appropriate to quote one of the characters from "Frozen," Disney's highly successful licensing darling, "Let it go! Let it go! Let it go!"

Lori Borgman is a columnist, author and speaker. Email her at lori@loriborgman.com.

Parents can only control their own attitudes about unexpected news

While I'm away, readers give the advice.

On being the parent your kids need you to be: When our daughter, a student/athlete and honor graduate, began to explore enlisting in the Army, it came as a total surprise, and not just to us. But it was also something that she had done completely on her own – exploring the alternative to "sitting four more years." Were we happy? No; she had scholarships and excellent college options. But we tried to choose our words carefully, and keep them few by listening to her talk about how and why she was considering this change in direction.

Her father and I selected a mix of friends to work through our concerns, fears, and also have our view challenged. This helped our conversations with our daughter be more open-minded. Yes, we asked her questions to

understand how she had thought this through, and with her consent met with her recruiter. We didn't do this right every time, and it was a journey of fits and starts. But, when it became clear that she was serious; her father and I realized that the only things we could choose were our attitudes and response. After all, we had raised this young adult who independently had opened doors to other horizons, so we embraced her and honored her decision.

Yes, our military personnel are in harm's way more often than we would like, but bubble wrap is for packing boxes, not for living life. I would rather have an adult daughter who knew her mind, made the right decision for herself and set out to live a life well-lived, risks included, than one who bowed to pressure and fear from family. Is it easy having your child deployed? No it is not, but bad things can happen anywhere in the world, and to think anything else is to fool yourself. – Damn Proud Army Mom

On (not) choosing sides in

a divorce: My wife and I had friends several years ago who had a nasty breakup, with the guy being the publicly culpable party. We took on the role of wife-comforter and supporter.

However, I also reached out as a friend to the guy. I expressed my disappointment with his actions but left the door open to friendship and listening.

As time has passed, we all moved on. They established new worlds for themselves. We are in touch but no longer needed for support. But we were there when both needed a friend.

Miscommunication and bad behaviors are shared in a relationship. The sense of failure and loss is also shared. Two good people can have a good relationship that deteriorates into a bad situation over time. There are two sides to every breakup. Both need friends who listen rather than judge. They need reassurance that they will survive and have a new life. – S.T.

Email Carolyn at tellme@washpost.com or follow her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/carolyn.hax.

New husband's suspicions are troubling to his wife

DEAR ABBY: I recently got married. My husband goes through my purse, my papers, my jewelry, my clothes – and even my underwear. He says that as my husband he has the right to do that. He says I am wrong to object.

What are your thoughts on this? I feel like although I'm a wife, I am still a person and have a right to be respected. How would you react? – Confused Jane in the South



Jeanne Phillips
Dear Abby

DEAR CONFUSED JANE: I would react by calmly asking my husband why he thought it was necessary to invade my privacy like that and if he thought I was unfaithful, and I'd tell him I regarded it as a threat to the marriage. I'm sure he would react the same way if you searched through his belongings and the history on his phone and computer.

What he is doing is a red flag. It's an indication that

he's insecure and controlling, and spouses who behave that way have been known to escalate to domestic violence. Marriage counseling *now* might head it off. But if it doesn't, you would be wise to consider ending the marriage before there are children involved.

DEAR ABBY: I was married to an incredible man for 32 years. He was quite a bit older and passed away a few months ago.

Along with a wonderful marriage, I also enjoyed the gracious family I married into: stepchildren, step-grandchildren and, in later years, step-greats. Although we rarely used the word "step," everyone always understood how I was related to them.

My question is, now that my husband is gone, am I still their step-whatever, or did I lose that when my husband died? We remain close. – Step-Whatever in Kansas

DEAR STEP-WHATEVER: Please accept my condolences for the loss of your husband. Because your relationship with the family is a warm and close one, you shouldn't worry. I'm sure

you will always be family to them. It's only when relationships are strained that problems like the one you're concerned about arise.

DEAR ABBY: While going through some old paperwork, I came across a bunch of pictures of my ex-girlfriend and me. Our relationship ended 10 years ago. She's married and lives in another state.

Part of me says it's time to get rid of at least some of them, but I'm not sure how to do it with respect to my ex and our past relationship. The other part of me wants to keep them, as they represent a happy time in my life and what I looked like back then.

My dilemma seems to be that these images still bring out strong emotions and memories even after all this time. What do you suggest? – Photo-Finished?

DEAR PHOTO: If the memories and emotions are pleasant, hang onto the photos as souvenirs of happy times gone by. If you're unable to do that, destroy them because time has marched on, and so did the lady in the pictures.



SEE SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

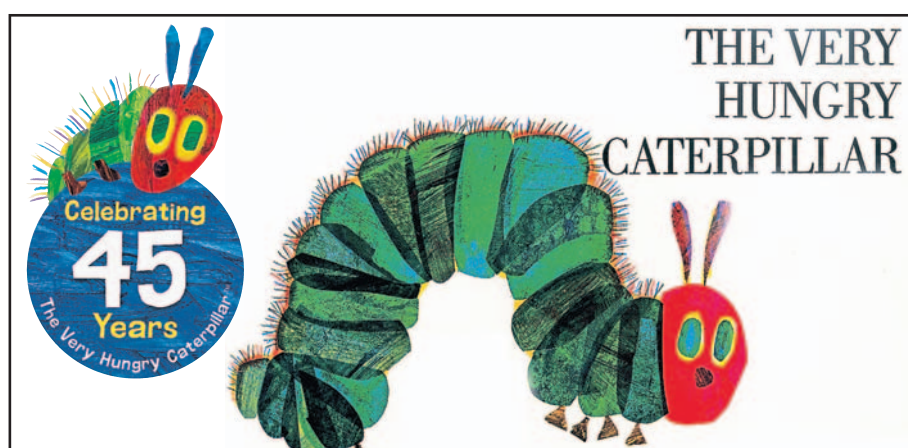
MENDEL CENTER MAINSTAGE



THE RUSSIAN NATIONAL BALLET THEATRE PRESENTS DON QUIXOTE
Saturday, January 10, 2015, 4 p.m.



JIM BELUSHI AND THE BOARD OF COMEDY
Thursday, February 5, 2015, 7:30 p.m.



THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR AND OTHER ERIC CARLE FAVORITES
Saturday, February 14, 2015, 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.



RAIN: A TRIBUTE TO THE BEATLES
Thursday, February 26, 2015, 7 p.m.



THE ACTING COMPANY PRESENTS MARK TWAIN'S A CONNECTICUT YANKEE IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT
Saturday, March 14, 2015, 8 p.m.



WILD KRATTS LIVE!
Saturday, April 25, 2015, 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.

Order Online - WWW.LMCMAINSTAGE.ORG
BOX OFFICE (269) 927-1221 • MONDAY - FRIDAY 2 P.M. - 6 P.M.
AND ONE HOUR BEFORE SHOW TIMES.
2755 E. NAPIER AVENUE, BENTON HARBOR, MI 49022
Program subject to change. Prices do not include fees.



**Begin Your Home Search
at an Open House this weekend.**

View open houses on our TV show every weekend
or go to cressyeverett.com from any device for details.



NEW LISTING
1822 Greenly Benton Harbor
\$99,900
• 3 BD, 1 BA, 1,088 SF
• 7.88 acres with 3 outbuildings
• Hardwood in all bedrooms and an updated bathroom
• Home features a full basement and a 2-car attached garage

cressyeverett.com/14066542
Julie Capron
269-357-3525



NEW LISTING
1426 Agard Avenue Benton Harbor
\$49,000
• 2 BD, 1 BA, 1050 SF
• Large Rooms, Hardwood Floors
• Central Air, with newer roof
• Nicely insulated with enclosed porch
• Large Back yard
cressyeverett.com/14065790
Shawn and Miles Ashley
269-277-2754



7022 Waverland Path Stevensville - Lake Michigan
\$1,750,000 **WATERFRONT**
• 5 BR, 5 BA, 3560 SF
• 100 In. ft. Lk. Mich. Private beach rights
• Gourmet kitchen, natural wood ceilings w/ beams
• Private guest suite, beach gazebo, large decks
• Perfect for a B & B. Call for Showing today
cressyeverett.com/14024472
Don Kamp
269-449-6666



7607 Forest Beach Road Watervliet - Paw Paw Lake
\$999,000 **WATERFRONT**
• 4 BR, 2 1/2 BA, 2900 SF
• Huge wrap-around deck
• 82 ft. perm. Pier
• 147 ft. Paw Paw Lake frontage
• 3 level dormitory sleeps 7
cressyeverett.com/14032182
Bill Achterberg
269-208-3453



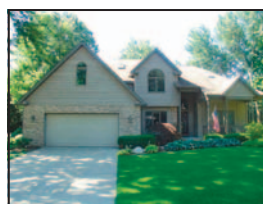
8375 Stevensville-Baroda Rd. Baroda
\$949,900
• 5 BD, 3+ BA, 5018 SF
• 20 acres, 4000 of heated barn, paddock area, wood shop
• 2 story fireplace, large kitchen w/ island, hardwood floors
• Master suite w/ Jacuzzi, double head shower, walk in closet
• Heated pool, indoor hot tub, landscaped yard
cressyeverett.com/14047951
Don Kamp
269-449-6666



200 Lake Street Lake Michigan Views
\$699,000
• 2 BR, 2 1/2 BA, 1600 SF
• Granite countertops, showers, floors, double vanities
• 33' balcony for views, fireworks, listen to concerts
• Lg. screen tv & stainless appliances all stay
• Turn key-Price includes all furnishings
cressyeverett.com/14026515
Don Kamp
269-449-6666



3029 Wyndwicke Dr. St. Joseph
\$569,900
• 5 BR, 4 1/2 BA, 7367 SF
• The Oaks Subdivision
• Main floor master, gourmet kitchen
• Quartz counters, cherry cabinets
• Fin. basement w/ kitchen, media, exercise room
cressyeverett.com/14021987
Don Kamp
269-449-6666



2110 Wooded Way Stevensville
\$464,900
• 4 BR, 4 1/2 BA, 3054 SF
• Walnut wood floors, eat-in kitchen
• Quartz countertops, breakfast bar
• Master suite w/ vaulted ceilings, skylight
• Inviting heated in-ground pool
cressyeverett.com/14012953
Don Kamp
269-449-6666



250 Water #B St. Joseph
\$349,000 **WATERFRONT**
• 2 BR, 2 1/2 BA, 1862 SF
• St. Joe River water front condo
• Great views from 9 x 19 3 season room
• Amenities incl. in-ground pool & club house
• Grill on the balcony while enjoying the views
cressyeverett.com/14008400
Don Kamp
269-449-6666



3026 Village Court Stevensville - The Village at Stevensville
\$224,900
• 3 BD, 3 BA, 1700 SF
• Open floor plan, fireplace, custom window treatments
• Kitchen w/ cherry cabinets, granite & stainless appl.
• Finished basement, screened in porch, brick patio
• Upper deck descends to fenced in patio
cressyeverett.com/14053371
Patricia Bowman
312-420-1281



4637 Hidden Creek Lane Bridgman - Hidden Creek Subdivision
\$179,900
• 3 BR, 2 BA, 1592 SF
• Open floor plan, vaulted ceilings, patio & deck
• Ready to finish basement, 2 car garage
• Close to Wiko Beach, wineries, golf, shopping
• Easy access to I-94
cressyeverett.com/14037562
Jaimie Lenardson
269-313-1499



10267 N. Tudor Road Berrien Springs - Spacious home
\$165,000
• 5 BD, 3 BA, 3020 SF
• Open floor plan in great location
• MB features walk-in closet & bath
• Finished LL w/ full kitchen
• Backyard includes privacy fence
cressyeverett.com/14062516
Julie Dalsen
269-357-6040



3271 Roosevelt Rd. Muskegon - Roosevelt Park
\$120,000
• 3 BD, 1 1/2 BA, 1349 SF, solid brick ranch
• Hardwood floors, newly tiled kitchen
• Main level laundry, remodeled bath in 2008
• 1 car garage with plenty of storage space
• Well maintained & ready to move in
cressyeverett.com/14059674
Mike Barber
269-449-6939



482 S. Ottawa Benton Harbor
\$62,000
• 2 BD, 1 BA, 1026 SF
• Fireplace, French doors to rear deck
• Central air, fenced back yard, 1 car garage
• Close to shopping, beaches, hospital
• Lots of potential for a great price
cressyeverett.com/14058164
Mike Barber
269-449-6939



871 Edgcombe Ave. Benton Harbor
\$32,400
• 4 BR, 1 BA, 1100 SF
• Cape Cod on quiet tree lined street
• Many updates to kitchen and bath
• Call for your private showing
cressyeverett.com/14041052
Michael Volpe
269-985-8399



1840 Lakeshore Drive St. Joseph
\$369,900 **VACANT LAND**
• Building site with Lake Michigan Views
• Easy access to public beaches, shopping, restaurants, and golf courses
• Premier building site with wide open views of Lake Michigan
cressyeverett.com/14021549
Jaimie Lenardson
269-313-1499



9252 Date Road, Bridgman Farming Development Opportunity
\$279,000 **VACANT LAND**
• Value is in the land
• 51.7 Acres of tillable land
• 2,154 Ft. road frontage on Date Road
• Water, sewer & natural gas available
• Lake Charter Twp., Bridgman Schools
cressyeverett.com/13036950
Don Kamp
269-449-6666



48th Avenue Hartford
\$34,000 **VACANT LAND**
• Unique, 10 acre parcel
• Near top of historic Webster Hill
• Mostly wooded
• Nice Building Location
• 40 min to Kalamazoo, 20 min to St. Joseph
cressyeverett.com/14062609
Mike Barber
269-449-6939



715 Columbia Ave. St. Joseph
\$749,000 **COMMERCIAL**
• Colonial style office building
• Owners second quarters above include 3 BR, 2 BA, sun porch, vaulted ceilings
• East & West office space currently occupied
• Unlimited possibilities!
cressyeverett.com/14015118
Michael Volpe
269-985-8399

CONTACT US TODAY

Bill Achterberg 269-208-3453
Miles Ashley 269-277-2754
Shawn Ashley 269-845-2317
Michael Barber 269-449-6939
Patricia Bowman 312-420-1281

Taylor Clark 502-333-5775
Julie Dalsen 269-277-2754
Connie Free 810-404-1578
Cori Hatheway 269-277-3545
Don Kamp 269-449-6666

Jaimie Lenardson 269-313-1499
Mike McCausland 269-208-3451
Jude Murray 630-280-0077
Kathy Orris 319-538-2671
Phyllis M. Palmer 269-985-3180

Jim Rabbers 269-930-2927
David Springsteen 269-462-2500
Michael Volpe 269-985-8399



TV
These and other homes can be seen on
Cressy & Everett's Home Shows
Saturday at 5pm - SBT2
Sunday at 10am - WNDU
Sunday at 1pm - SBT2

5675 Red Arrow Highway Stevensville, MI 49127 269-429-6666
517 Pleasant Street, St. Joseph, MI 49085 269-983-7550

If it's for sale, it's at cressyeverett.com

Look throughout this section for open houses, new listings & price reductions from these realtors:



Experience the

ADVANTAGE

(269) 429-3070

Ready to buy a Home?
Let us show you options you may not have thought of.

2014 Reader's Choice Award Winner



5 of the last 6 years



Experienced
Trusted
Leading
the Way

Visit us at:

www.ColdwellBankerAdvantage.com

Our Real Estate Professionals are known for their Excellent customer service, trust, commitment, Market knowledge and Proven results.

Trusted agents, with the right tools, for smarter decisions



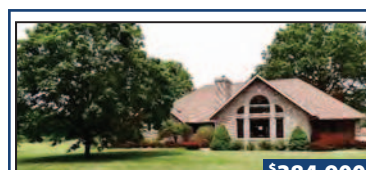
NEW LISTING
Former Nursery Business - Property Only
\$199,000
• 7.76 Acres with 2 Buildings
• 48 x 64 Outbuilding and Greenhouses
• 32x40 Pole Bldg w/ 1.5 BA, offices, Kitchen
• Bridgman H# - 14066762



PRICE REDUCED
Custom built 3 BDRM/2.5BA Contemporary
\$649,000
• One Block from Lake Michigan
• Over 4,400 sq. ft., Open Concept, Multiple decks
• Gourmet Kitchen, Stainless Appl., Exercise Room
• Exceptional Views St. Joseph M#- 14037100



PRICE REDUCED
Over 2000 sq ft Finished Living Space
\$179,900
• 4 BR, 2 BA, Lg Lot, Fenced Yard, Pool & Hot Tub
• Newer Flooring, Appliances & Fresh Paint
• Move in Ready and Lakeshore Schools
• Stevensville F# - 14054049



NEW LISTING
3.41 acres, 4 bdr, 3 full baths, 2 fireplaces.
\$384,900
• Amazing kitchen, granite counters & flooring.
• Full bsmt, rec & game rooms, 3 car attached
• garage & detached garage w/brick exterior.
• Pool, private backyard, St. Joe - #M-14038912



NEW LISTING
4300 SF, 10 bdr 3.5 baths, HW floors,
\$129,900
• heated sun porch, updated kitchen.
• Zoned commercial but can be residential.
• Formerly an AFC home. Well maintained.
• Fenced back yard. Gallen #C-14023246



NEW LISTING
Beautiful wooded setting, multi tiered deck
\$150,000
• Fireplace, hardwood floors, large windows
• Convenient location, near beaches
• 3 Bedroom 2 Baths
• St. Joseph City F# - 14026186



PRICE REDUCED
RARE FIND - Super Sharp, well maintained, nice lot
\$233,900
• Move-In Ready! 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, 3 Car Garage
• Bright & Spacious Living Room, Vaulted Ceilings
• Sliders to Large Deck, New Carpet in Finished Bsmt
• Must See - Won't Last St. Joseph F#-14025058



NEW LISTING
Affordable downtown Rental
\$48,000
• Good monthly income
• Convenient location
• One and a half Stories
• Niles C#-14039651



NEW LISTING
LOCATION! Great downtown Rental
\$59,000
• Good monthly income
• Located across from Library
• Close to schools and banking
• Berrien Springs K#-14039543



NEW LISTING
Pride of Ownership Shows Through
\$184,900
• 3 BD, 2 BA, 1,575 Finished Sq Ft, .3 Acre
• Cozy Gas Fireplace, Open Flr Plan, Pantry
• Partially Finished Basement, Guest Rm, Rec Rm
• Lrg Shed, Bridgman D# - 14059199



NEW LISTING
Renovated 3 BDRM, 2 BA Ranch
\$125,000
• Beautiful Hardwood Floors
• Complete New Kitchen, Granite
• Stainless Steel Appl., New Fixtures
• Benton Harbor S#-14050621



NEW LISTING
Country Living at it's finest, on 2 Acres
\$229,900
• Completely Rehab, 3 BD, 2 BA, 2 mi to Beach
• A Lot New, Stainless Appl., Ctr Island, Roof
• Spacious Bedrooms & Open Flr Plan
• Sawyer Y#-14047630



NEW LISTING
Wonderful two Story on desirable street
\$186,000
• 3 BDRM, 1.5 BA, Lrg. Formal Dining Rm
• Fenced Backyard w/ 2 decks & brick patio
• Many closets, Charming Front Porch
• Newer Furnace & AC St. Joseph F#-14047140



NEW LISTING
Weekend Getaway, 2 BDRM, 1 BA
\$119,900
• Bungalow nestled on 1 wooded acre
• Sun Room & Skylights; 1.5 car garage
• Updated Kitchen and Bath
• Hagar Twp. M#-14042166



NEW LISTING
Exceptional custom built home w/ impressive walkout
\$459,900
• Large Wooded Ravine lot w/ Hickory Creek streaming
• Spectacular 5 BDRM, 3.5 BA w/ Architectural details
• Peaceful, tranquil, abundance in every rm.
• 1.3 Acres, Stevensville W#-14029929



NEW LISTING
Located close to St. Joseph High
\$90,000
• Home has 3 BDRM and a Bath
• Large Fenced Backyard, 12x16 Deck
• Main Flr Laundry, Updated Bath
• St. Joseph D#-14039895



Are You Ready To Sell Your Home?
We have buyers that are looking!
May we help you sell your home today?



NEW LISTING
Exquisite Fenner built home-Stockbridge Estate
\$620,000
• 3,734 Sq Ft of unmatched QUALITY & COMFORT!
• Granite, Brazilian Cherry Flooring, geothermal hgt
• Central vac, 10-12 ft ceilings throughout home
• Wooded/ravine lot St. Joseph #S-14037653



NEW LISTING
Convenient Downtown Rental property
\$58,000
• Good monthly income w/ good rental history
• Three Bedroom, 2 Bath
• Located on a Double Lot
• Niles M#-14039636



NEW LISTING
Cute & Cozy Country Ranch
\$172,500
• 3 BD, 2 BA, Full Basement, 2 Car Garage
• Open Floor Plan w/ Vaulted LR Ceiling
• Easy & Convenient Main Floor Living
• Eau Claire F#-14054483



NEW LISTING
5 Bdr, 2.5 bath Quad-level home
\$229,000
• Private ravine lot of 1.5 acres,
• Spacious hm on no thru street
• Bonus! Home Warranty inc.
• Stevensville F#-13063064



NEW LISTING
Updated 3 bdr 2.5 bath farm house on
\$244,900
• 14.63 ACRES w/3 additional outbuildings!
• Fronts Pipestone Creek. Fire pit.
• 3 car garage, workshop.
• Sodus #N-13038837



NEW LISTING
Opportunity! Metal bldg, at MJ-140 & Naomi
\$69,900
• Commercially zoned, 2.60 Acres, 200 amp
• Artisan spring on property, Wood stove for heat
• No well or septic on property, call for info
• Eau Claire, M#-14057194



NEW LISTING
Affordable 2 Bedroom Rental
\$58,000
• Good Income History
• Located west of town
• Easy Access to US 31 Bypass
• Berrien Springs S#-14039505

NO TRANSACTION FEES 4333 Red Arrow Hwy • Stevensville, Michigan RELOCATION CO. APPROVED

The Herald-Palladium

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified Desk: 1-800-356-4262
Hours: Monday - Friday 7am-5pm
 Saturday & Sunday 7am-12:30pm



@properties®

LUXURY PORTFOLIO

Stop looking, start finding® atproperties.com

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

People DO Read Small Ads. You Did!

UNFURNISHED APARTMENTS

CLASSIFIED ads are read daily! Call (269) 429-4484 to make your phone ring with an ad today!

UNFURNISHED APARTMENTS

NEWS YOU CAN USE! TO SUBSCRIBE CALL (269) 429-1396

UNFURNISHED APARTMENTS

Bridgman, Starting October 17th 1/2 off first months rent with year lease, 1 & 2 Bdrm Apts., some fully furnished, Pet Friendly, Starting at \$435/mo Call 269-465-3333

LAPORTE, IN LP/NP SCHOOL DISTRICTS HOUSES, DUPLEXES and APARTMENTS available for rent or land contract. For available properties & application information Phone/Text 219-575-4620 or visit our website Kkrental.webs.com

Briarwood Apts and Villas 3 bedroom 2 bath duplex with 2 car garage. Hurry! Won't last long!! 219-380-5136

UNFURNISHED APARTMENTS

FOX VILLAGE ONE OF LAPORTE'S FINEST 1 and 2 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, appliances some with washers and dryer. Heat, water furnished. Call 219-362-5422

LA PORTE COMMONS 1 & 2 BEDROOM PET FRIENDLY SENIOR DISCOUNTS & MOVE IN SPECIALS CALL TODAY 219-362-6040 2400 ANDREW AVE. www.laportecommons.com

LA PORTE: Briarwood Apartments 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms Ask about our free rent specials 219-380-5136 pmamindiana.com

LA PORTE: 1 bedroom lower, new paint, very clean, hardwood floors, good area, stove, refrigerator, No Pets, No Smoking \$590 monthly. That includes everything! 219-363-3198

Laporte: 5 room upstairs, \$400 water included. 219-362-7160

FOR RENT St Joe - 2 bd condo turn & unfurn St Joe - 3 bd house Coloma - 4/5 bd house Call us to manage your rental properties Rental Mgt. 269-325-7774 bjparrish14u@aol.com

UNFURNISHED APARTMENTS

Michigan City: Large 1 Bedroom upper at 204 Thurman Ave., excellent neighborhood. All utilities included, with A/C, off street parking. \$580 a month, \$500 Security Deposit. Call 219-577-5444

Michigan City, Queen's Park Apts Small quiet setting. Spacious 1&2 bdrm from \$575/mo! 219-296-9606

UNFURNISHED APARTMENTS

Michigan City Long Beach Cove Villas Check out our free rent specials! 2 and 3 bedroom 2 bath units. 219-879-9950 pmamindiana.com

LaPorte IN Two Bedroom. All Appliances. One car garage off street parking \$750/mo 219-324-3459

UNFURNISHED APARTMENTS

St Joseph: Private Ravine. Lg 1 bdrm, hardwood floors, private porch. close to shopping areas. \$550/mo plus sec. water, trash & heat included. call 269-983-2374

Michigan City: Cute & Cozy 1 bed off street parking, stove & refrig, 219-362-5933 or 219-851-1931

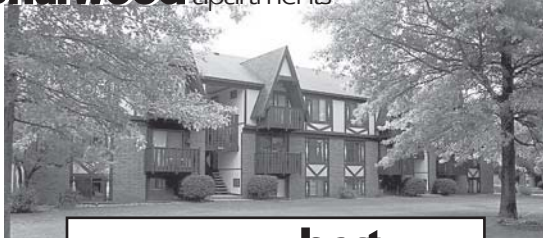
UNFURNISHED APARTMENTS

Michigan City: Large 2 bd+ upper, great neighborhood, off street parking call 219-877-7311

Michigan City Deluxe 3 bdrm upper custom kitchen, ceramic tile, hardwood flooring, washer dryer hookup 324 1/2 E. 10th \$720 month + utils No pets

Deluxe 3 bdrm

Briarwood apartments



Benton Harbor's **best** value!

24-hour Emergency Maintenance
 High-speed Internet Offered • Laundry Facilities in every Building
 Installation of Cable TV Free at Move-in • Cats Welcome (in select units)

1 Bedrooms from \$455
2 Bedrooms from \$555

269-927-1055 • Mon.-Fri. 9-6 • Sat. 10-4 • Sun. by appt.
 North of I-94 on Union, south of Napier • edwardrose.com/briarwood

FISKARS PROPERTIES

Offered By:
James Agens, RE Broker

www.sableshores.com

www.villageatstevensville.com

269-208-5302



WATERVIEW

4144 Ridge Road #36, Stevensville
 • Panoramic View of Lake Michigan
 • 2 Bed & 2 Bath
 • 1,050 Square Feet
 • Ceramic Tile in Kitchen and Baths
 • Granite Tops Kitchen and Baths
 • Plantation Shutters
 • Whirlpool Tub
 • Ceiling Fans
 • \$229,900 REDUCED!
 • MLS #: 11025777



3014 Village Court, Stevensville

• +/- 1,600/SF Finished First Floor
 • 2 Bed & 2 Bath Condominium
 • Full Basement
 • Private Deck
 • Real Wood Cabinets
 • Gas Heat & Central Air
 • 2-Car Attached Garage
 • \$199,900
 • MLS #: 2921152

Enjoy Living in a Beautiful Maintenance-Free Condominium Ranch Home!

Wonderful clubhouse amenities and lifestyle.
 Great views and a great location.
 Standard homes only \$216,500 to \$229,500.



Visit our decorated models and clubhouse. Go South on Pipestone Road to the "T" in the road. Turn right (West) and go a short distance to The Villas at the River.



Call Charley Shasky at 269-921-2068 or Dick Wales at (269) 930-4383 for more information.

www.VillasAtTheRiver.com

DICKINSON ESTATES



Dickinson Road is located on the East side of M-139 (Old 31) between Marquette Woods Road to the North, and John Beers Road to the South. About 1/4 mile down Dickinson Road you will see to your left the brick monuments marking the entrance to Dickinson Estates.

A development for beautiful homes valued from \$400,000 to \$1,000,000+. Deep and dramatic ravine views as well as sunny meadow home sites. You may build with the fine home builder of your choice.

A private enclave with no through streets and protected views.

A recreational area with tennis court, playground equipment and playfield.

A location in the outstanding St. Joseph School District.
www.DickinsonEstates.com
 269-921-2068

UNFURNISHED APARTMENTS

house. Newly remodeled, hardwood floors W/D hookup 1115 W 9th. \$800 monthly plus utilities no pets Call 219-229-0270

FURNISHED APARTMENTS

MICHIGAN CITY

Now Renting

1 BEDROOM APARTMENTS

Completely remodeled and furnished.

Starting as low as \$450- \$500/month & security deposit.

Call 219-879-3430

HOMES FOR RENT

Michigan City: 216 Main St Apt. 3bdrm, full bath, new carpeting, new kitchen flooring & tons of cabinet space, built in microwave, stove & refig included, brand new 96% eff heating & a/c, water/hot water included, 1 car garage & off street parking included, lg back desk \$750 312-961-5679

CLASSIFIED ads are read daily! Call (269) 429-4484 to make your phone ring with an ad today!

HOMES FOR RENT

Stevensville MI 4 Bedroom 1.5 Bath, 2 car garage, walking distance of Lakeshore Sr/Jr High School \$1250/mo 269-369-1029 or 269-369-2118

Stunning home! Great price! 3 bd/2 bth, A/C, garden tub, Thermopane Windows, New flooring throughout. Call 269-695-3119, Riverside

LA PORTE: 316 Oberreich St. Looking for a very clean family to make this house a home. 2 bedroom 1.5 bath with large office, with its own entrance. Really clean, lots of new upgrades, off street parking and shed. NO PETS \$160 weekly Utilities not included Call 219-324-0408

Michigan City Cozy 2 bedroom home in Trail Creek. 209 Canary Place. appliances included, lovely large yard, \$650.00 per month plus all utilities, deposit, good credit and excellent references required. Please call 219-874-8016

HOMES FOR RENT

Michigan City 819 E Homer Street, very nice 2 bedroom, 1 bath, in good neighborhood, lg updated kitchen & bath, All appliances plus dishwasher, new furnace, windows, detached garage and yard, washer/dryer hookups, \$650 per mo plus utilities, \$650 sec deposit, No Smoking/ no dogs 219-861-9942

Michigan City Lease a 2 bedroom, 1 bath home Starting at \$550 per month Only a few left! Call 219-874-4290

Michigan City. Unfurnished home for rent. Great location 2br, full basement, large attic. \$750/mo plus sec. dep. Call 219-861-3622.

DUPLEXES FOR RENT

LA PORTE: Monroe Manor 2 bedrooms \$500 No appliances. No Pets Call 219-362-6525

ROOMS FOR RENT

Michigan City Dunes Inn MOVE IN SPECIAL!! Monthly rate starting at \$450-\$475!! Limited rooms available. Utilities included. Clean, comfortable rooms. Refrigerator

ROOMS FOR RENT

microwave, satellite TV in room. On site guest laundry. Friendly service. behind Bob Evans Restaurant. Located at 3934 N. Frontage Rd off I-94 exit 34B. Please call 219-879-1150 for details.

ROOMMATE WANTED

Michigan City. 2 Roommates Wanted. Looking for two responsible Christian adults to share a clean home located in a nice quiet neighborhood located just off Hwy 20 in Michigan City. \$475 Mo. w/ \$475 sec. dep. Rent includes all utils and direct TV hookup in each room. Use of

ROOMMATE WANTED

kitchen & house-hold appl. Shared bathroom with other roommate. Optional garage parking for one tenant. Excel. refs a must. No smoking, pets or couples. Call 219-229-4462

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

Michigan City Buying a home made easy! 3 bedroom 2 bath home starting as low as \$10,000.00 Great Location/Community Amenities Included Call (219) 874-4290

MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE

Westville IN 2 homes for sale, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, possible owner financing, \$1,000 security deposit plus park approval Please call or text 219-229-4932

LEGALS

BENTON CHARTER TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF NEW YEAR HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSING

BENTON CHARTER TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING WILL BE CLOSED ON WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31ST, JANUARY 1ST & 2ND FOR THE

LEGALS

Carolyn Phillips Township Clerk

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOUND

Found Medium sized dog found at DiMaggio's parking lot Hagar Shore on M63 call 269-849-2320

EMPLOYMENT

Careers are made in the Classifieds... Find One Today!

ADMINISTRATIVE

Michigan City Wanted: Property Manager And Assistant PM for local apartment community. Section 42 experience preferred. Position is located in Michigan City. Full Time Position. Full Benefits Package Offered. Equal opportunity employer. For more info and to apply online visit: www.hermankittle.com/careers

HOUSE HUNTING? Watch For Our Open House Ads in Classified

The Herald-Palladium 429-4484 1-800-356-4262

SALES

SUPERHITS 103.7 IN SOUTH HAVEN NEEDS SALES PEOPLE WITH A SUCCESSFUL TRACK RECORD. If you can sell, you can earn a great living with a Market Leader with 6 Radio Stations in Michigan's Great Southwest. State-of-the-art training with excellent benefits, salary plus bonus compensation. Fax resume to: 269-925-1011 email:salesjobs@the radiostations.com. No phone calls. EOE

CROSSWORD

Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

“THE SIXTH SENSE” By C.C. BURNIKEL

ACROSS
1 Holed, as a putt
5 Gives and takes
10 Unlit?
15 Showy display
19 Neat as —
20 — firma
21 Butt (in)
22 Google Nexus competitor
23 Nonconformist
25 Predecessor of Begin
26 Superman's cover
27 Choice cut
28 Went for a seat
29 British aristocrat
30 Get hot on Twitter
32 Longtime Guardian cartoonist
33 Roadwork warning
37 Equally hot
39 Rosemary relative
41 Tolkien forest giant
42 “Moneyball” Oscar nominee
44 Boneheads
45 Candy that comes in three colors
48 “Gimme ___!”: start of a Rutgers cheer
49 “10538 Overture” band
51 Good buddy
52 HDTV brand
53 Pulls a fast one on
56 Don McLean song that begins “Starry, starry night”
58 Large spitz
62 Parts of teacups
63 Central Utah city
65 Pomegranate color
66 Dragon roll ingredient
68 Room to chill
69 Still undecided, briefly
70 X Games pursuits
73 Permitted
74 Huge load
75 Uni, in sushi bars
76 You, to Goethe
77 Tax-sheltered accts.
78 They may be placed
79 Delivery expert, briefly
81 Canal transport
83 Forward
84 “Ich bin — Berliner”

DOWN
1 Paella ingredient
2 Existing independent of experience, in logic
3 Eponymous market analyst
4 Joint where kids are welcome?
5 Son of a Gun! vinyl protectant maker
6 Oddballs
7 Pianist Claudio
8 Royal issue
9 Held court
10 Junkyard metal
11 Midwest hub
12 Fundamentalist region
13 Longtime Brit. music label
120 Revise, as text
121 Map fleck
122 Spice Girl
123 Hebrides tongue
124 Fellas
125 Insincere
126 Teeny amt. of time
13 Longtime Brit. music label
14 Second-home income, perhaps
15 Colorado Gold Rush area
16 Feature of club nights for wannabes
17 Official order
18 Safeeco Field summer hrs.
24 Stretches to the limit
29 Where el sol rises
31 Extremists
34 Ernest Moniz's dept.
35 2001 scandal subject
36 Who and No: Abbr.
38 Rehab hurdle
40 Chews (on)
43 National Humor Mo.
46 Blunted blades
47 Construction site sight
49 Continually
50 Citrus drink
53 Squabble

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

55

56

57

58

59

60

61

62

63

64

65

66

67

68

69

70

71

72

73

74

75

76

77

78

79

80

81

82

83

84

85

86

87

88

89

90

91

92

93

94

95

96

97

98

99

100

101

102

103

104

105

106

107

108

109

110

111

112

113

114

115

116

117

118

119

120

121

122

123

124

125

126

12/28/14

xwordeditor@aol.com

©2014 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

BUSINESS & SERVICE GUIDE

APPLIANCE
All Pro Appliance Service
\$10 OFF Service Call
Must present this at time of service.
Factory Authorized Repair & Installations
Install & Repair All Major Brand Appliances
www.allproappliance.com
St. Joseph
Phone (269)983-7507
Fax (269)983-0995
apasil1c@sbcglobal.net

WET BASEMENT??
RJ WATERPROOFING & CONTRACTORS
*Internal/External Drain Tile Systems
*Water Seepage - Structural Wall & Floor Cracks
*Bowed Walls/Crawl Spaces/ Mold/Dampness
*Exterior Membrane/Grading
*Sump Pump/Emergency Backup System
*Added Resale value with Dry Basement
*Basement Baths & Remodeling
LOCAL 269-337-7660

AUTOMOTIVE
The Trans Pro's
Call for a Free Quote
219-942-6644- Business Score
219-405-2480- After Hours
Rebuilt Transmissions starting at \$150.00
Installation Available
Hundreds of Units in Stock

Sandy's
Compassionate Care For the Elderly
269-208-7711
Skilled Certified Nursing Assistant, providing care to the elderly in their homes.
Services include: meal preparation, medication distribution, cleaning, errands, transportation, bathing, toileting, companionship.
Please call Sandy to discuss your caregiving needs.

CARPENTRY
Richter's Carpentry
Specializing in basement remodeling, drywall, drop ceilings, doors & trim. No job too small. 20+ years in Business.
944-0236

PAINTING
PAUL PEREZ PAINTING
Specializing Interior & Exterior Painting
Repair Drywall Cracks, Holes, Water, Smoke Damage, Textures, Staining, & Powerwashing.
20 Years Experience
"Senior" Discounts Insurance & Reliable FREE ESTIMATES
Call Paul 269-217-3253 269-783-4148

CLEANING SERVICES
MOLLY MAID
A Better Way To Live.
Serving Berrien County Since 1994.
Free Estimates
We clean carpets too!
269-429-3200
www.mollymaid.com

HOME IMPROVEMENT & REPAIR
•Remodeling
•Improvements
•Repairs
•Painting
10+ years of local service
Dependable, reasonable, and honest.
HANDY RANDY'S (269)449-4169

BLACK ARSENAL
• Firearms • Ammunition
• Optics • Knives
• Silencers • Tactical Gear
CLASS III DEALER
269-235-9305
5711 St. Joseph Ave. Stevensville, MI
www.blackarsenal.com

ROOFING
DAUGHERTY'S
Roofing Repair
Call Greg at (269) 208-5522
Specializing in minor roofing repair, algae removal and gutter cleaning.
NO JOB TOO SMALL

GUNS & ARCHERY
Gun & Bow Outpost, Inc.
GUNS*SCOPES*AMMO
BOWS*ARROWS & more
Best Prices! Best Service!
www.gunandbowoutpost.com
1161 Lemon Creek Rd. Baroda, Michigan
269-422-6000
gunandbowoutpost@qtm.net

HOME IMPROVEMENT & REPAIR
Larry Morrow
Residential Builder
• Painting
• Kitchens
• Baths
• Drywall
• Roofing
• Decks
• Windows
• Doors
• Fences
• Flooring
• Siding
• Basements
269-325-2242
Licensed & Insured

AIR DUCT CLEANING
"Serving the Community Since 1969"
AIR DUCT, DRYER VENT CLEANING
Residential & Commercial
Rotobrush® Air Duct Cleaning System
Reduce Dust, Molds & Bacteria
Lower Energy Costs
Video Inspection
Marshall's Carpet Cleaning
983-6787
St. Joseph, MI

GUTTERS
USA Gutter Quick Service
Residential and Commercial
Free Estimates
1-800-361-9923 or 269-927-3899

MODERN ANTIQUE FIREARMS
• Largest Selection of Firearms in area
• Ammunition
• Optics
• Repairs & Custom Work
• Buy, Sell, Trade & Consignments
• Best Prices with Great Customer Service
• We will special order any item for you
3580 Fieldtree Rd Benton Harbor, MI 49022
(269)944-5788
www.migunexchange.com
4 Blocks North of Maple & US31 Intersection

People DO Read Small Ads. You Did!

SALES

HERALD-ARGUS

Advertising Executive

SALARY PLUS MONTHLY BONUSES

Are you a fast learner? Do you have a natural drive for achieving goals? Our advertising sales opportunities give you the advantage of earning excellent compensation selling a variety of advertising in LaPorte's most dominant media - The La Porte Herald-Argus, our website, and specialty publications. Sales or customer service experience preferred. Should be comfortable with basic computer skills such as email, word processing, internet, etc. Valid driver's license, reliable vehicle and driving record check are required. We offer a competitive salary plus monthly bonuses. Vacation, 401k with company match, Medical and Dental Insurance, plus more. EOE

Please email your resume no later than Tuesday January 6, 2015 to: resume@heraldargus.com

"Paxton Media Group LLC is an equal opportunity employer, and does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other protected class."

EDUCATION/TEACHING

Van Buren ISD job opening:

*Temporary Teacher/Hearing Impaired (fill in for maternity leave)

View info/apply online at www.vbisd.org EOE

MEDICAL/DENTAL

Berrien Springs

Job Opportunity at Frontier Dental Studio Looking to hire Dental Technician for scanning and designing for CAD. Beginner can be trained. We are located in Berrien Springs, MI. To apply, call or fax resume to 877-471-3065.

Clinical Supports

Coordinator needed to work with adults with developmental disabilities from our Bangor office. Will develop supports plan, provide individual, family & group therapy, crisis intervention, medication monitoring, & other clinical services. Requires LMSW with 1 yr relevant exp. Must be able to maintain EMR. Full-time, \$41,902-52,876 with benefits. Submit your resume to cjohanson@vbcmh.com EOE

Full-time/Part-time

CNS's, LPN's, RN's needed for all shift. Please apply in person M-F 8:30am to 5:00pm. Orchard Grove Extended Care, 1385 E. Empire Ave, Benton Harbor MI 49022. 269-925-0033. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer

GENERAL HELP

Office help wanted:

Hours: 9:30am to 6pm \$8.00 an hour Send Resume to dligue@markmanpeat.com

GENERAL HELP

MICHIGAN WORKS!

Berrien • Cass • Van Buren

Start a new career in an industry that's hiring.

Visit Michigan Works! today to see if you qualify for:

*Access to training funds

*One-on-one career coaching

*Assistance with certification costs

*Priority connections to employers

499 W. Main St., Benton Harbor

GENERAL HELP

Stevensville

Part-time weekend cook, part-time dishwasher, care giver needed. Background check will be completed. Drug testing may be required. Apply in person only, 8:30am-5:00pm at Crown-Pointe Senior Living Communities, 4232 Red Arrow Hwy, Stevensville, MI 49127. No phone calls please.

CLASSIFIED ads are read daily! Call (269) 429-4484 to make your phone ring with an ad today!

TRUCKING

CDL-A Drivers:

Dedicated Fleet Home Daily or Every Other Day Fixed Schedules, Assigned Equipment Apply: WNLGROUP.COM Call: 1-855-975-3691

HOUSE HUNTING?

Watch For Our Open House Ads in Classified

The Herald-Palladium

429-4484

1-800-356-4262

TRUCKING

DRIVER TRAINEES

GET PAID CDL Learn to drive for Stevens Transport NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED

New Drivers can Earn \$900 per week! and benefits

Carrier covers cost! Be trained and based locally! Now offering NEW Regional Routes in IN

1-800-882-7364

People DO Read Small Ads. You Did!

TRUCKING

OTR DRIVERS

WANTED Looking for miles? Make up to \$60,000 a year & still have home time? Be a name not a truck number? Pro Vision Transport is the place for you! We are currently hiring CDL drivers to join our growing fleet. You must have at least 6 months OTR exp. Please call 877-396-1078 or visit www.provisiontransport.com

FINANCIAL

GARAGE /ESTATE SALES

MERCHANDISE

SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT

Watervliet MI Meyer Hydro Turn 7 1/2 ft Snow Plow blade, complete with wiring harness and Frame for a Dodge truck. Good shape! \$1500.00 OBO 269-463-6014

CLASSIFIED ads are read daily! Call (269) 429-4484 to make your phone ring with an ad today!



looking for a
new
career

find it here in
the classifieds.

SELL YOUR ITEMS IN
THE CLASSIFIEDS TODAY!



....BECAUSE MONEY
DOESN'T GROW ON TREES!

It's a unique gift that will be treasured for a lifetime.

It's a unique gift that will be treasured for a lifetime.

click on the Photo Gallery & Reprints link

Ray corrects a few misconceptions

DEAR CAR TALK: I purchased a 2004 Nissan Altima with front-wheel drive last winter. At one point, my right front tire was stuck on ice but my left front tire was on dry asphalt. I tried to get off the ice, but the right tire (the one on ice) kept spinning, while the left tire, on dry pavement, did nothing. I was under the impression that if one tire slipped, the traction would be switched to the non-slipping tire (left). When I called the dealer, he stated that the car is manufactured so that the right tire gets the power, and that next time I should consider parking so that my left tire is on ice and the right tire is on dry asphalt. I asked him if he was serious, and he said yes. What is the real story about front-wheel-drive cars – specifically, the 2004 Nissan Altima –with regard to which wheel gets the power on ice? – Marc

Wow, you guys are a wellspring of misinformation!

All cars have something called a differential. The differential is a magical box of gears (sorry, that's the best I can do without using diagrams and my hands) that send power to the wheels while – at the same time – allowing the left and right wheels to turn at different speeds.

Why is that necessary? Because when you're going straight, your left and right wheels rotate at the same speed, and all is right with the world. But when you turn left or right, the inside wheel has to turn slower because it's traveling a shorter distance than the outside wheel travels (draw a picture of where a car's wheels go when it turns, and you'll see that the outside arc is longer than the inside arc). If the inside wheel couldn't turn slower, you'd drag it along the pavement. Not a good way to turn.

The only downside of the differential is that because of the way it works, there are two properties that are always true. One is that the combined speed of the two wheels always stays the same. So the outside wheel speeds up by the exact amount that the inside wheel slows down.

And, more importantly for your purposes, the differential always sends the exact same amount of torque (twisting power) to both wheels.

Why is that a problem? Well, if one wheel is on ice and it requires practically zero torque to make it spin (which is what happens on ice), then the other wheel – the one on dry pavement – also gets zero torque. So the wheel on ice spins freely, and the car doesn't move.

That's been addressed over the years in some cars with a technology called "limited slip differential," which detects when one wheel is slipping and sends torque to the other wheel. But that wasn't available on your car.

These days, most cars have computer-controlled dynamic stability control, traction control and ABS brakes, which address the same problem.

But to answer your question, under normal circumstances, both wheels get power in your 2004 Altima – as they do in pretty much every car. And whoever answered the phone at your dealership had his head up his differential.

Got a question about cars? Write to Car Talk visiting the website at www.cartalk.com.

BEHIND THE WHEEL

By ANN M. JOB

For The Associated Press

Most consumers may figure they have to pay a premium to get German engineering, European road handling and a roomy interior in a family-size sedan. But Volkswagen's 2015 Passat is proving them wrong.

Starting retail price, including destination charge, for the pleasantly styled, five-passenger Passat is just \$23,040 with automatic transmission. It's only \$21,940 with a five-speed manual.

Plus, the Passat is a recommended buy of Consumer Reports magazine, where reliability is rated at well above average with the base, turbo gasoline four cylinder and average with the fuel-sipping turbo diesel engine.

Further, the 2015 Passat earned top, five out of five stars in federal government crash testing.

One place where the Passat comes



Photo provided by GM Media

It appears that Chevy likes how well the Buick Encore compact luxury crossover is selling and asked permission to have one like it. The new model, the Trax, is already sold in dozens of countries worldwide. The Trax will broaden Chevy's already strong crossover lineup that includes the Equinox and the Traverse. Starting at \$21,000, the little 4-door utility vehicle will appeal to entry level buyers.

Year-end observations and hot picks for 2015

It's the time of the year when automobile industry pundits, like yours truly, reflect on the past and make predictions about the upcoming New Year.

The year 2014 will enter the record books as another excellent sales year for both the domestic and foreign automakers. With only a few exceptions, the year brought increased sales and 2014 will end up with almost 17 million vehicles sold in the U.S. This level of sales success has almost reached the record pace enjoyed in the last decade before the Great Recession raised its ugly head.

Amongst domestic automakers, Chrysler Group was the surprise big winner. Chrysler's rebound has shocked its critics and supporters alike. The post-bankruptcy company managed to maintain through November its amazing feat of increasing month over month sales for 56 weeks, often in double-digit figures!

Who would have imagined back in the dark days of 2009 that the barely breathing Chrysler Group would not only recover from a bankruptcy filing, but then excel against longtime competitors GM and Ford. As a Mopar enthusiast, I've become a great fan of Sergio Marchionne, the visionary Fiat Chrysler Automobiles CEO, and his team.

Scorching hot truck sales drove most of Chrysler's growth. RAM pickup sales are on fire and Jeep vehicles are selling in record numbers. Ram pickup market share has grown from 11.6 percent at time of bankruptcy to 22.4 percent this year; a remarkable achievement in this hyper competitive segment.

I recall in the 1960s and '70s when if Jeep sold 100,000 units a year, it was a good year. The company is predicting this year that Jeep worldwide sales numbers may reach the 1 million figure. U.S. Jeep sales in 2014 are up 43 percent through November. The year old all-new Cherokee is a home run and the Grand Cherokee and the Wrangler are selling in very healthy numbers.

GM managed to increase the number of vehicles sold this year, thanks to the strength of truck sales.



Dar Davis



Photo provided by FCA US Media

A lot is resting on all-new Jeep Renegade. The smallest Jeep yet, it is FCA's latest effort to help the brand reach a goal of selling 1.2 million vehicles worldwide in five years. As an Italian-built vehicle on a Fiat automobile platform, the question is will the mini-SUV have the Jeep ruggedness that buyers of the iconic brand expect?

GMC and Chevy trucks are having a great year and Buick is making progress in attracting more buyers.

Luxury brand Cadillac is the big disappointment for GM. With highly regarded products now in dealerships, the once dominant Cadillac is floundering and of late is being outsold by not only BMW, Mercedes and Lexus, but also of late by Audi. I'm hoping that new Cadillac chief Johan de Nysschen can right the Cadillac ship and put it back in contention for the luxury sales crown.

Ford still hasn't recovered from the backlash from buyers of its in-car MyFordTouch/Sync communications and entertainment system that was introduced in 2011. Complaints from owners, and negative pronouncements from influential Consumers Report, resulted in poor quality scores for Ford Motor cars and it has affected sales.

While Ford sales remain soft again this year, company officials expect things to improve in 2015 when a new, more intuitive communication/entertainment system is being introduced. Also in 2015, Ford will introduce several new products plus the all-new aluminum-bodied F-150 pickup – introduced earlier this fall – will reach full production. The F-150 is the best selling vehicle in the U.S. and its success is vital to Ford's financial good health.

The year 2014, if you ignore the recall debacles (GM's ignition switch, Takata's airbags), was a pretty good year for automakers. Industry prognosticators are predicting that 2015 auto sales will continue to grow, at perhaps a slightly slower pace.

So are the prognosticators accurate with those rosy predictions for

2015? I'm betting yes. There are a number of great vehicles in the product pipeline, many in segments that are selling well, and their introductions will only add fuel to the still recovering industry.

Coming soon to Jeep dealers is the mini off-roader, the Renegade. Like the red hot Cherokee, the small Renegade is based on a Fiat platform. Unlike the Toledo-built Cherokee, the Renegade will be built by Fiat in an Italian plant. The company has high hopes that the little Jeep will be a big seller, especially in emerging markets around the globe.

The Chevy Trax has been on sale outside the U.S. for a year or two and has been a success. I saw the 4-door mini cute-ute on display at the Detroit Auto Show a couple of years back and wished then that Chevy would offer it here. A sibling of Buick's small Encore, the affordable \$21,000 Trax will give Chevy ammunition to attract entry-level buyers in the white hot compact SUV/crossover segment.

Dodge Challenger and Chevy Camaro have a new competitor in the pony car wars. Ford has created an all new Mustang, this time for international consumption. Ford hopes the improved Mustang (finally with independent rear suspension) will be a big hit and can thump Camaro and Challenger.

Chrysler's 200 mid-size sedan was introduced last year and sales have been growing each month since. It still has a long way to go to reach the sales level of competitor Camry and Accord, but it is Chrysler's first commendable effort in this class.

I'm looking forward to the rumored Chrysler 100 compact sedan. This smallest yet offering will

give Chrysler – now Fiat Chrysler's entry level brand – a weapon to compete with the Ford Focus, Chevy Cruze, Toyota Corolla, Honda Civic and the Mazda3. I'm hoping the 100 will be introduced, at least in concept form, at the Detroit show.

Certainly a force to be reckoned with next year is the high performance models from Dodge, Fiat Chrysler's newly anointed performance brand. Already on the market is the 707 horsepower Hellcat power plants found in the 2015 Dodge Challenger and Charger. Joining the Hellcat offerings is the Dodge Viper sports car. The Dodge Boys aren't wasting any time in making lots of noise as a performance brand.

It remains to be seen if there will be Hellcat versions of the Dart and Ram pickup. Performance enthusiasts can hope.

Head designer Peter Schreyer at Kia and Hyundai is at it again. Under this capable designer's direction the two Korean companies have hit home runs with the Hyundai Sonata and Elantra and the Kia Optima and Soul. Now his magic touch has been applied to the newest minivan, the Kia Sedona. It is hard to make a boxy minivan look elegant. Mr. Schreyer has succeeded with the new Sedona.

I would need several columns to mention all the exciting vehicles arriving at dealers now or later in 2015. I've on touched on a few. I look forward to writing about others in upcoming columns. Happy New Year.

Dar Davis is founder and entrant liaison of the annual Concours d'Elegance of Southwest Michigan – St. Joseph car show held each August. He can be reached at drd43@sboglobal.net. His blog site is darscars.blogspot.com

VW Passat: Roomy, affordable sedan with German engineering

up short, though, is the lack of a backup camera on its lowest-priced models.

Standard equipment on all 2015 Passats includes air conditioning, power windows, mirrors and door locks, Bluetooth hands-free connectivity, a six-speaker audio system and split rear seatbacks that fold down to expand the cargo space.

In addition to the backup camera, the Passat's SE trim adds convincing, leather-like seat material, upsized, 17-inch alloy wheels, eight-way, power driver's seat, rear air vents, heated front seats, premium audio with touchscreen, leather-wrapped steering wheel, parking brake and shift knob as well as exterior chrome-look trim and interior aluminum dashboard trim.

The Passat differentiates from its major competitors in offering a 3.6-liter, gasoline V-6 and a 2-liter, turbodiesel four cylinder as well as the base, 1.8-liter, gasoline, turbo

four. The Camry, Accord and most other family-size sedans don't offer diesels.

While record-low gasoline prices today might not encourage interest in the fuel-thrifty diesel Passat, it's worth mentioning the 2015 Passat TDI, as it's called, is a bargain.

For a starting retail price of \$27,645, this Passat TDI with a new-for-2015 turbodiesel four cylinder produces 150 horses and an impressive 236 foot-pounds of torque starting at a low 1,750 rpm.

The number of miles that a driver of the Passat TDI can go without filling the tank often takes people by surprise.

The federal government rated the test Passat TDI with automatic at 30 miles per gallon in city driving and 42 mpg on the highway. Even with aggressive driving, the tester wound up with a travel range of more than 640 miles in combined city and highway driving on a single, 18.5-gallon tank.

2015 Volkswagen Passat TDI SE with Sunroof

BASE PRICE: \$21,120 for 1.8T manual; \$22,220 for 1.8T automatic; \$24,135 for 1.8T Wolfsburg Edition; \$26,020 for 1.8T SE; \$26,635 for 1.8T Sport; \$26,825 for TDI SE; \$27,830 for 1.8T SE with Sunroof and Navigation; \$28,840 for TDI SE with Sunroof.

PRICE AS TESTED: \$29,660.

TYPE: Front-engine, front-wheel drive, five-passenger, mid-size sedan.

ENGINE: 2-liter, double overhead cam, common rail direct injection, diesel turbocharged and intercooled, inline four cylinder.

MILEAGE: 30 mpg (city), 42 mpg (highway).

LENGTH: 191.6 inches.

WHEELBASE: 110.4 inches.



AP



GET YOUR BUSINESS TAX DEDUCTIONS BY DECEMBER 31, 2014.



Billet Silver Metallic, 9 Amplified Speakers, Touch Screen Display, Satellite Radio, and Much More! C4-205

MSRP \$26,580
SIEMANS DISCOUNT -1,585
REBATE -1,500
BIG FINISH BONUS CASH -500
GREAT LAKES BONUS CASH* -500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$22,495
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH* -500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH* -1,000

AS LOW AS \$20,995

(MUST QUALIFY/RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT/MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL)



Deep Cherry Red, Speed Control, 16 Inch Aluminum Wheels, Rear Door Glass, Power Folding Heated Mirrors, Premium Appearance Group, Interior Convenience Group, and Much More! C4-105

MSRP \$33,825
SIEMANS DISCOUNT -3,580
REBATE -750
BIG FINISH BONUS CASH -500
ON THE JOB BONUS CASH -500
COMMERCIAL BONUS CASH* -1,000
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$27,495
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH* -500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH* -1,000

AS LOW AS \$25,995

(*MUST QUALIFY)



2014 JEEP CHEROKEE TRAILHAWK 4X4

Brilliant Black Crystal, Leather Interior, V6 Engine, Trailer Tow Group, Navigation, Heated Front Seats, Power Lift Gate, Touch Screen Display, Adaptive Cruise Control, 9 Amplified Speakers, Remote Start, Heated Steering Wheel, Dual Pane Panoramic Sunroof, and Much More! C4-519

MSRP \$41,045
SIEMANS DISCOUNT -3,050
REBATE -500
BIG FINISH BONUS CASH -500
BONUS CASH -500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$36,495
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH* -500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH* -1,000

AS LOW AS \$34,995

(*MUST QUALIFY)



2014 RAM PROMASTER 3500 159" WHEELBASE

Bright White, 3.0 Diesel, Cloth Seats, Interior Convenience Group, Cargo Convenience Group, Power Folding/Heated Mirrors, Speed Control, Back-Up Camera, Rear Park Assist, Touch Screen Radio, and Much More! C4-761

MSRP \$42,430
SIEMANS DISCOUNT -3,435
REBATE -750
BIG FINISH BONUS CASH -500
ON THE JOB BONUS CASH* -500
COMMERCIAL BONUS CASH* -1,000
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$36,245
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH* -500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH* -1,000

AS LOW AS \$34,745

(*MUST QUALIFY)



2014 CHRYSLER 300 ALL WHEEL DRIVE

Jazz Blue Pearl, Leather Interior, Back-Up Camera, Satellite Radio, Navigation System, Heated Front Seats, Remote Start, and Much More! C4-756

LEASE FOR ONLY \$219 PER MONTH*

27 MONTH LEASE WITH APPROVED CREDIT, 10,000 MILES PER YEAR, \$2,200 DUE AT SIGNING, PLUS 1ST PAYMENT, TAX, TITLE, DOC FEE, PLATE FEE, SECURITY DEPOSIT WAIVED, RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT, OFFER EXPIRES 01/02/15



2014 RAM 2500 SLT CREW CAB 4X4

Omaha Orange, 6.7 Cummins Diesel, 6-Speed Automatic, Chrome Tubular Side Steps, Touch Screen radio, Rear Park Assist, Back-Up Camera, BIG HORN Package, and Much More! C4-659

MSRP \$55,470
SIEMANS DISCOUNT -5,475
REBATE -3,500
BIG FINISH BONUS CASH -500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$45,995
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH* -500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH* -1,000

AS LOW AS \$44,495

(*MUST QUALIFY)



2014 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE SUMMIT 4X4 DEMO

Bright White, 5.7 Hemi V-8 Engine, Rear Seat Blu-Ray Entertainment Center, Navigation, Sirius Travel Link, Touch Screen, 20 Inch Aluminum Polished Wheels, Heated/Cooled Seats, Dual Pane Panoramic Sunroof, Blind Spot and Cross Path Detection, Back-Up Camera, Selec-Terrain System, Adaptive Cruise Control, 19 Speakers, Forward Collision Warning Plus, Power Lift Gate, and Much More! C4-511

MSRP \$57,880
SIEMANS DISCOUNT -5,385
REBATE -2,000
BIG FINISH BONUS CASH -500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$49,995
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH* -500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH* -1,000

AS LOW AS \$48,495

(*MUST QUALIFY)



2014 DODGE DART GT

Redline Pearl, Remote Start, Power Sunroof, 506 Watt Amplifier, Satellite Radio, 18 Inch Hyper Black Aluminum Wheels, Touch Screen Display, Heated Steering Wheel, Back-Up Camera, 6-Speed Automatic Transmission, Leather Interior, and Much More! C4-730

MSRP \$24,630
SIEMANS DISCOUNT -1,435
REBATE -2,750
BIG FINISH BONUS CASH -500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$19,945
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH* -500
RETURNING LESSEE RETAIL LOYALTY CASH* -1,000

AS LOW AS \$18,445

(*MUST QUALIFY)



2014 JEEP PATRIOT LATITUDE

Billet Silver Metallic, 6-Speed Automatic Transmission, Satellite Radio, Remote Start System, 2.4L 4 Cylinder Engine, Keyless Entry, Fog Lamps, 17 Inch Aluminum Wheels, Heated Front Seats, and Much More! C4-538

MSRP \$23,865
SIEMANS DISCOUNT -1,620
REBATE -1,750
CHRYSLER CAPITAL BONUS CASH* -500
BIG FINISH BONUS CASH -500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$19,495
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH* -500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH* -1,000

AS LOW AS \$17,995

(*MUST QUALIFY/RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT/MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL)



2014 DODGE CHALLENGER 100TH ANNIVERSARY PACKAGE

High Octane Red Pearl Coat, Nappa Leather Interior, Navigation, Heated Front Seats, Touch Screen Display, Satellite Radio, 20 Inch Granite Crystal Wheels, Remote Start, and Much More! C4-555

MSRP \$33,135
SIEMANS DISCOUNT -2,140
REBATE -1,500
BONUS CASH -1,000
BIG FINISH BONUS CASH -500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$27,995
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH* -500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH* -1,000

AS LOW AS \$26,495

(*MUST QUALIFY)



2014 RAM 1500 SPORT 4X4

Blue Streak Pearl, Bucket Seats, Floor Shifter, 5.7 Hemi V8, 8-Speed Transmission, Anti-Spin Rear Axle, Receiver Hitch, 20 Inch Wheels, Remote Start, Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Touch Screen, Back-Up Camera, and Much More! C4-562

MSRP \$39,975
SIEMANS DISCOUNT -3,500
REBATE -1,500
TRUCK RETAIL BONUS CASH -1,000
BIG FINISH BONUS CASH -500
CHRYSLER CAPITAL BONUS CASH* -500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$32,975
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH* -500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH* -1,000

AS LOW AS \$31,475

(*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL)



2014 RAM 1500 QUAD CAB 4X4

Bright Silver Metallic, 5.7 Hemi V8 Engine, Anti-Spin Rear Axle, Cloth 40/20/40 Seat, Remote Keyless Entry, Satellite Radio, Bright Grill and Bumpers, Power Windows and Locks, Receiver Hitch, and Much More! C4-618

MSRP \$34,710
SIEMANS DISCOUNT -2,715
REBATE -1,000
BIG FINISH BONUS CASH -500
CHRYSLER CAPITAL BONUS CASH* -500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$29,995
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH* -500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH* -1,000

AS LOW AS \$28,495

(*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL)



2014 RAM 1500 QUAD CAB 4X4 DEMO

White, 5.7 Hemi V8 Engine, 20 Inch Chrome Clad Wheels, Rear Back-Up Camera, Receiver Hitch, Anti-Spin Rear Axle, 8-Speed Automatic Transmission, Touch Screen, and Much More! C4-526

MSRP \$38,740
SIEMANS DISCOUNT -4,245
REBATE -1,000
RAM TRUCK BONUS CASH -1,000
BIG FINISH BONUS CASH -500
CHRYSLER CAPITAL BONUS CASH* -500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$31,495
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH* -500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH* -1,000

AS LOW AS \$29,995

(*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL)



2014 CHRYSLER 300

Gloss Black, Navigation, BEATS Audio System, 18 Inch Chrome Clad Wheels, Remote Start, Rear Back-Up Camera, Heated Front Seats, and Much More! C4-750

MSRP \$37,180
SIEMANS DISCOUNT -2,185
REBATE -4,250
BONUS CASH -1,000
BIG FINISH BONUS CASH -500
CHRYSLER CAPITAL BONUS CASH* -1,000
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$28,245
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH* -500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH* -1,000

AS LOW AS \$26,745

(*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL)



2014 RAM 2500 POWER WAGON CREW CAB 4X4

Blue Streak Pearl, Winch, 6.4 Hemi V-8 Engine, Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Remote Start, Touch Screen Display, Power Seat, Satellite Radio, Clearance Lamps, LT 285 Tires, and Much More! C4-592

MSRP \$52,790
SIEMANS DISCOUNT -2,795
REBATE -3,500
BIG FINISH BONUS CASH -500
BONUS CASH -1,000
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$44,995
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH* -500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH* -1,000

AS LOW AS \$43,495

(*MUST QUALIFY)



2014 RAM 2500 CREW CAB SLT 4X4

Maximum Steel Metallic, 6.7 Cummins Diesel, Rear Back-Up Camera, 6-Speed Automatic Transmission, Navigation, Rear Park Assist, Snow Plow Prep Package, Power Seat, Fog Lamps, 18 Inch Polished Forged Aluminum Wheels, Touch Screen Display, Heated Front Seats, BIG HORN Package, and Much More! C4-639

MSRP \$54,605
SIEMANS DISCOUNT -4,610
REBATE -3,500
BIG FINISH BONUS CASH -500
RAM TRUCK BONUS CASH -2,000
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$45,995
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH* -500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH* -1,000

AS LOW AS \$44,495

(*MUST QUALIFY)



2014 RAM 1500 REGULAR CAB 4X4

Granite Crystal, Power Windows and Locks, Anti-Spin Rear Axle, 5.7 Hemi V-8 Engine, 20 Inch Chrome Clad Wheels, Receiver Hitch, Anti-Spin Rear Axle, Express Package, Fog Lamps, and Much More! C4-663

MSRP \$34,410
SIEMANS DISCOUNT -2,915
REBATE -1,500
BIG FINISH BONUS CASH -500
CHRYSLER CAPITAL BONUS CASH* -500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$28,995
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH* -500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH* -1,000

AS LOW AS \$27,495

(*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL)



2014 RAM 1500 SLT CREW CAB 4X4

Flame Red, OUTDOORSMAN PACKAGE, 5.7 Hemi V8 Engine, Remote Start, Bucket Seats, Fog Lamps, Satellite Radio, Receiver Hitch, Touch Screen Display, Power Seat, 8-Speed Automatic Transmission, Back-Up Camera, Park Assist, Anti-Spin Rear Axle, and Much More! C4-489

MSRP \$43,425
SIEMANS DISCOUNT -3,430
REBATE -1,500
RAM TRUCK BONUS CASH -2,000
BONUS CASH -1,000
BIG FINISH BONUS CASH -500
CHRYSLER CAPITAL BONUS CASH* -500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$34,495
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH* -500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH* -1,000

AS LOW AS \$32,995

(*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL)



2014 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED 4X4 SAHARA

Firecracker red, Leather Interior, Body Color 3-Piece Hard Top, Navigation, Remote Start, Automatic Transmission, Connectivity Group with Bluetooth, Heated Front Seats, Alpine 9-Speaker System, and Much More! C4-764

MSRP \$40,065
SIEMANS DISCOUNT -2,565
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$37,500
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH* -500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH* -1,000

AS LOW AS \$36,000

(*MUST QUALIFY)



2014 RAM 1500 SLT CREW CAB 4X4

Maximum Steel Metallic, 5.7 Hemi V8 Engine, BIG HORN Package, Touch Screen Radio, Rear Camera and Park Assist Group, Remote Start and Security Group, 8-Speed automatic Transmission, Power Seat, Chrome Body Side Molding, 20 Inch Chrome Clad Wheels, Anti-Spin Rear Axle, and Much More! C4-735

MSRP \$44,540
SIEMANS DISCOUNT -4,045
REBATE -1,500
BIG FINISH BONUS CASH -500
RAM TRUCK BONUS CASH -2,000
BONUS CASH -1,000
CHRYSLER CAPITAL BONUS CASH* -500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$34,995
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH* -500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH* -1,000

AS LOW AS \$33,495

(*MUST QUALIFY)



8961 Red Arrow Hwy, Bridgman, MI • 269-465-5344 or 269-925-3673

www.siemensinbridgman.com

Sales Dept. Hours: Mon, Thurs 9-8, Tues, Wed, Fri 9-6, Sat 9-4



NEWS YOU CAN USE! TO SUBSCRIBE CALL (269) 429-1396

CLASSIFIEDS



61%
18-34 year-olds
read a
newspaper
in any
given week.

Wheat Pennies- \$3
per roll of 50. Call
269-449-2506

NEED HELP?
CAR FINANCING
10 minute approval
Phone loan:
(269)925-2277
Jerry Hunt
"The Walking Man's
Friend"

**HOUSE
HUNTING?**
Watch For Our
Small Ads.

The Herald-Palladium
The Newspaper for Southwest Michigan
429-4484
1-800-356-4262

**People
DO Read
Small Ads.
You Did!**

(269)
429-4484

12/28/14

DO IT HERE, DO IT NOW



The fast lane for small business.

SECTION 179 DEDUCTIONS LIMITS HAVE BEEN REINSTATED TO \$500,000 As Well As Reinstates 50% Bonus Depreciation Thru December 31st, 2014. Only This Year is Covered by The Reinstatement. Therefore, It is a Good Decision For Many to Finance Equipment Immediately to Make the December 31st, 2014 Cutoff for Write-Off Provisions. Your Business Must Apply for Section 179 Qualified Financing As Soon As Possible to Make The Cut Off at MIDNIGHT 12/31/14.

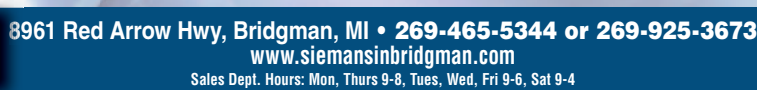
**PICKUPS
SNOW PLOWS
CAB-CHASSIS (READY FOR UPFITS)
MINIVANS
MANAGEMENT VEHICLES
SALES REP CARS
SPORT UTILITES FOR THE BOSS!
AND MUCH MORE!**

WE HAVE ACCESS TO ANYTHING YOU NEED-INCLUDING
DUMP TRUCKS
UTILITY TRUCKS
FLATBEDS
YOU NAME IT!

OUR SALES TEAM IS READY TO HANDLE ALL OF YOUR NEEDS!

EMAIL: info@siemans.net

FIND A NEW JOB HERE IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!





In order to serve you better
SIEMANS MAZDA has MOVED
*it's operation to our Bridgman location
at 8961 Red Arrow Hwy.*



2015 Mazda CX-5 SPORT
Automatic
Bluetooth
Audio Pkg.
VIN# JM3KE28E6F0483895

NOW
\$23,995

2014 Mazda6 GRAND TOURING
Leather Seats
Navigation
Power Moonroof
Loaded
VIN# JM16J1W69E1143964



WAS \$30,490
NOW
\$28,333

TEST DRIVE ONE TODAY!
Offers Good Thru December 31, 2014



Mazda CX-5 Mazda6 Mazda3

MAZDA NAMED LOWEST 5-YEAR COST TO OWN BRAND FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW!



*5-Year
Cost to Own
Awards*



*5-Year
Cost to Own
Awards*

"...FUEL-EFFICIENT, RELIABLE AND STRONG RESALE VALUE...." -KELLEY BLUE BOOK



zoom-zoom

**8961 RED ARROW HWY,
BRIDGMAN MI**
SALES DEPT. HOURS:
MON & THURS 9-8
TUES, WED, & FRI 9-6
SAT 9-4
269-465-5344 OR 269-925-3673
WWW.SIEMANSINBRIDGMAN.COM

Sell Your



In The Classifieds!

Classifieds Make A Cash Connection!



Drop Everything!

Our 20% Off Continues on 2014 & Even 2015 Select Models!!

2014 Chevy Cruze



S78927
MSRP = \$21,935
SALE PRICE = \$21,000
20% off = \$4,387

YOUR PRICE
\$16,613

2014 Chevy Impala LS



S78625
MSRP = \$27,670
SALE PRICE = \$27,000
20% off = \$5,534

YOUR PRICE
\$21,466

2014 Chevy Sonic



S78976
MSRP = \$19,615
SALE PRICE = \$19,000
20% off = \$3,923

YOUR PRICE
\$15,377

2014 Chevy Camaro SS



S78939
MSRP = \$42,485
SALE PRICE = \$40,585
20% off = \$8,497

YOUR PRICE
\$32,088

2015 Chevy Silverado DBI Cab



S79094
MSRP = \$40,805
SALE PRICE = \$39,500
20% off = \$8,161

YOUR PRICE
\$31,339

2015 Chevy Silverado DBI Cab



S79148
MSRP = \$43,295
SALE PRICE = \$42,000
20% off = \$8,659

YOUR PRICE
\$33,341

2015 Buick Lacrosse AWD Premium Group



S79100
MSRP = \$49,480
SALE PRICE = \$48,000
20% off = \$9,896

YOUR PRICE
\$38,104

2015 Buick Lacrosse



S79132
MSRP = \$34,560
SALE PRICE = \$34,000
20% off = \$6,912

YOUR PRICE
\$27,088

Disclaimer - 20% off does not include tax, title and license. 20% off not available with employee, supplier, veterans, credit union pricing. See dealer for details. Promotional \$500 gift card not available in conjunction with advertised prices or sub-prime financing.

SEELYE

CHEVROLET • BUICK • GMC OF SOUTH HAVEN

"BETTER SEE SEELYE"

800-331-4566



FIND NEW ROADS

GMC

We Are Professional Grade


www.SeelyeAuto.com

South Haven's only Certified Sales and Service Dealership.

Featuring the best quality pre-owned vehicles.

Only Seelye of South Haven can offer you...

- 1yr-12,000 bumper-to-bumper GM warranty extension
- 2-year/24,000-mile maintenance plan • 24-hour roadside assistance
- 172-point vehicle inspection • Free vehicle history report
- Courtesy transportation • 90 days of OnStar & SiriusXM Satellite Radio



Find us on: facebook.



Huge Selection of Great Pre Owned Vehicles at Seelye of South Haven

2011 Chevy Cruz LT



Loaded, Alloy
Wheels, Pioneer
Speaker system,
Only 26K
Miles!

CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED

\$12,995 or \$189/mo

2013 Chevy Cruze 1LT



HURRY!
Only
3 left!

Monthly
Savings!
Gas
Savings!

Loaded, Alloy Wheels and Cruise!

STARTING AT...

\$12,995 or \$189/mo

CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED

2013 Chevy Impala LT



HURRY!
Only
2 left!

Laded.
Sweet.
Sedans.

Loaded, Alloy Wheels, Moonroof, Power Seats!

STARTING AT...

\$12,995 or \$189/mo

CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED

2013 Buick Regal Premium 1



2.0
TURBO!
Loaded
including
heated leather

CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED

\$19,995 or \$293/mo

2012 Chevy Traverse LS



Loaded!
1 Owner,
Local Trade,
8 Passenger

CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED

\$21,995 or \$299/mo

2012 GMC Yukon Denali AWD



Black on
black, only
29k miles,
Nav., DVD,
Moonroof,
20" chromies,
heated &
cooled leather.

CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED

ONLY \$43,995



2005 Chevy Monte Carlo

V-6 Loaded LS PKG

\$3,995 or \$93/Mo



2007 Honda Civic

Loaded LX Pkg. including Power Locks & Windows

\$7,995 or \$151/Mo



2008 Buick LaCrosse CX

3800 V6, loaded, including heated leather.

\$8,995 or \$169/Mo



2006 Toyota Avalon

Loaded XLS, Local New Car Trade, Very Nice.

\$10,995 or \$199/Mo



2011 Ford Fusion

Loaded, SE, Inc. PWR Seat, Alloy wheels

\$10,995 or \$166/Mo



2007 Cadillac DTS

Fully loaded including heated & cooled leather, only 50,000 miles!

\$13,995 or \$211/Mo

2014 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN STXs

Loaded SXT models including dual power sliding doors, Stow-N-Go seating, second row captain chairs, alloy wheels and power seat.

4 to
Choose

**\$16,995 OR
\$248/Mo**



2013 Kia Optima LX

Loaded

\$14,995 or \$225/Mo



2004 Chevy Trailblazer 4x4

LS Model, Trailer Tow & Alloy Wheels.

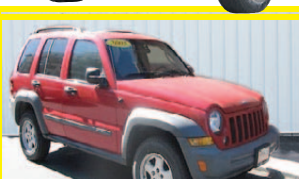
\$5,995 or \$138/Mo



2004 Chevy Tahoe

Loaded Z71 Inc. Leather, 3rd Row Seat

\$6,995 or \$157/Mo



2005 Jeep Liberty 4WD

Excellent condition inside & out, only 73,000 miles

\$9,995 or \$192/Mo



2013 Ford Escape

EcoBoost 4WD, Panoramic Moonroof.

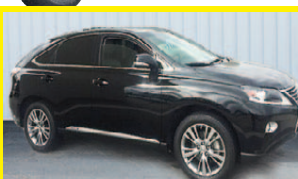
\$17,995 or \$272/Mo



2009 Chevy Traverse

Loaded! 2nd Row Captains Chairs, Rear DVD

\$17,995 or \$272/Mo



2013 Lexus RX450H

Fully loaded, brand new tires, absolutely beautiful!

\$39,995



2010 Chevy Silverado Ext Cab 4x4

1 Owner, Local Trade, Nicely Equipped LS model.

\$18,995 or \$279/Mo

Pre-owned payments based on best available rates and terms. W.A.C. Pics may vary. Vehicles subject to prior sale. *See dealer for complete details.

All payments include tax, title and transfer plate. May qualify for more incentives. All with approved credit. See Dealer for complete details. Pics may differ.

Pricing not available with \$500 gift card. Promotional \$500 gift card not available in conjunction with advertised prices or sub-prime financing.



DEALS ON WHEELS

WISHING
EVERYONE A
**HAPPY
NEW YEAR!**



LOUIE

FROM LOU & THE CREW



MIKE P.

CHEESE
(MIKE)

DAMACIO

JOE

KORI

MIKE M.



925-DEAL (3325) 934-DEAL (3325)
2508 S. PIPESTONE (JUST PAST BOB EVANS RESTAURANT)
www.yestodealsonwheels.com





HAPPY NEW YEAR!

From the

Dominion Family



During this Glorious
Holiday Season,
Dominion Chevrolet
Will Be Giving Everyone a
GM Supplier Deal
(what that means is under invoice)
**Zero Down Payments, No
Payments Due Until
February 2015 AND
Any Profits Left
Over Will Be 100%
Donated to Charity**



With Love, *Louie Domini*



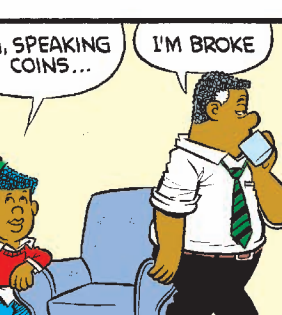
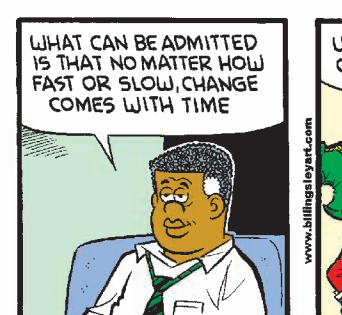
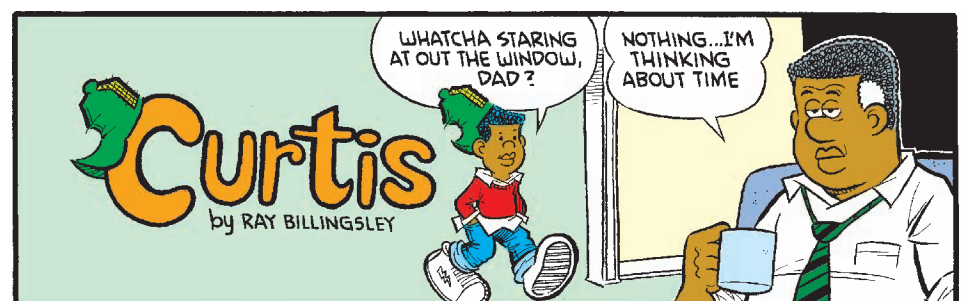
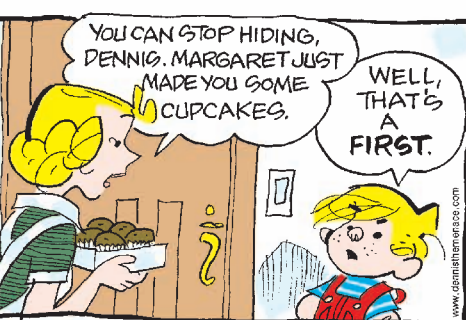
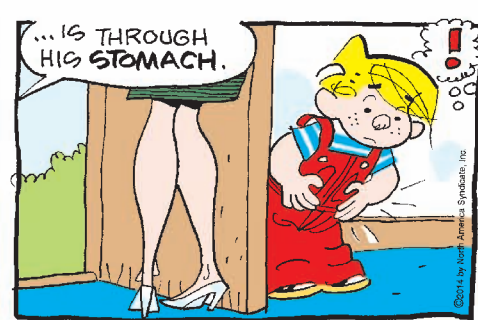
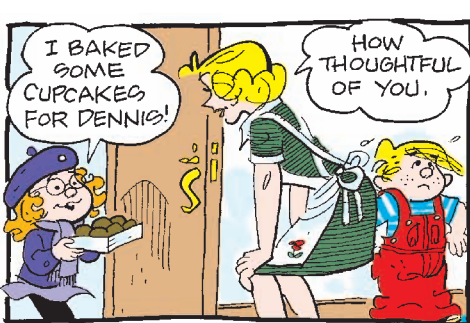
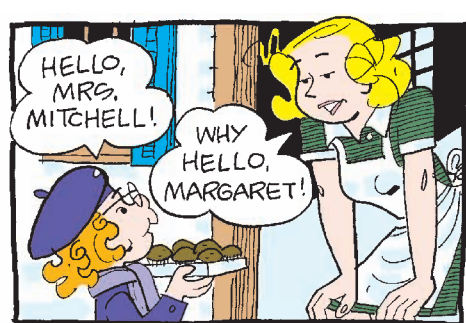
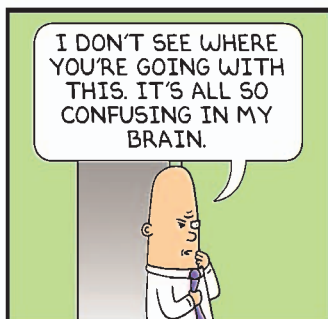
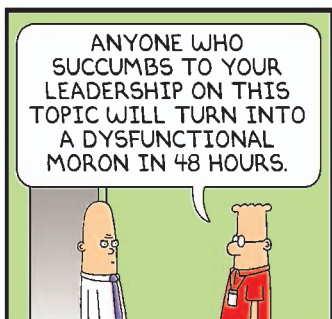
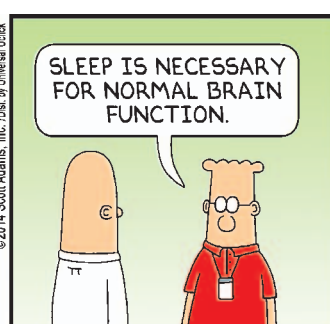
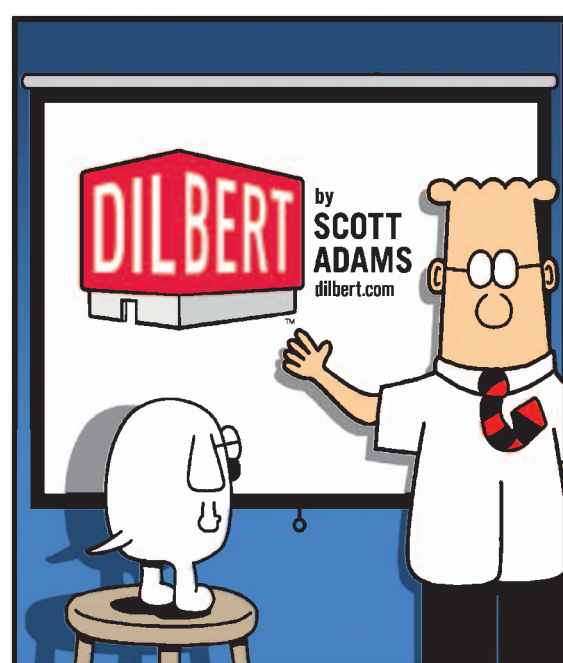
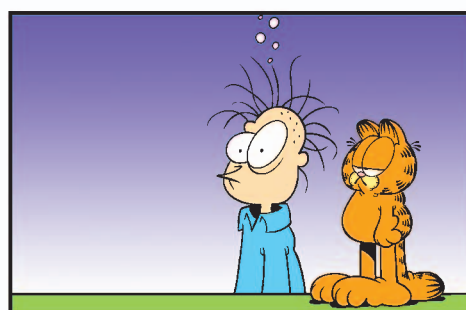
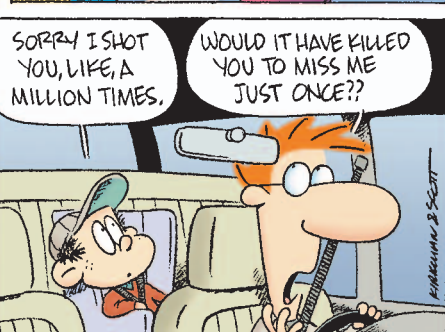
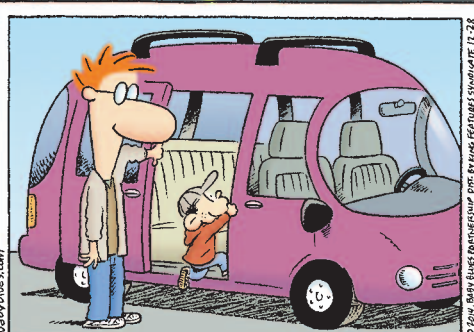
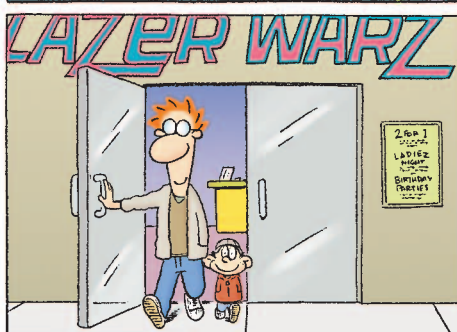
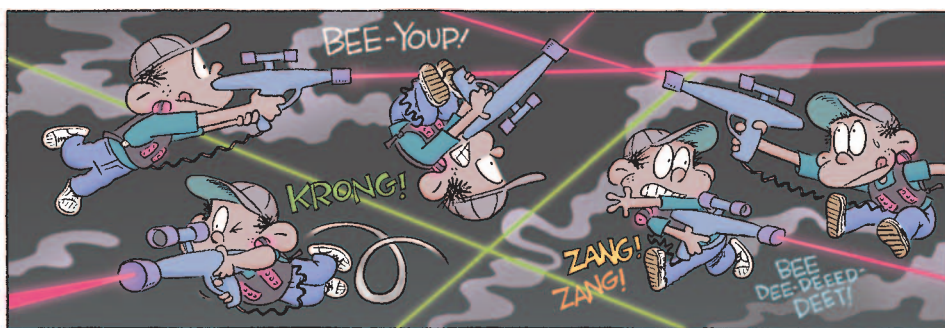
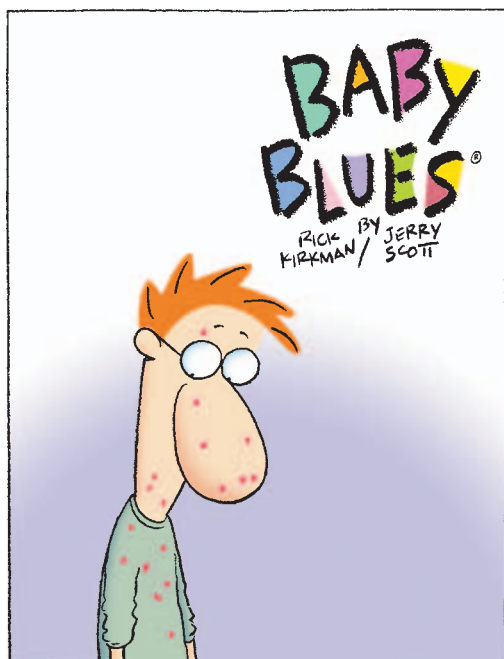


269-465-3325
9630 RED ARROW HIGHWAY, BRIDGMAN, MICHIGAN
WWW.DCHEVY.COM

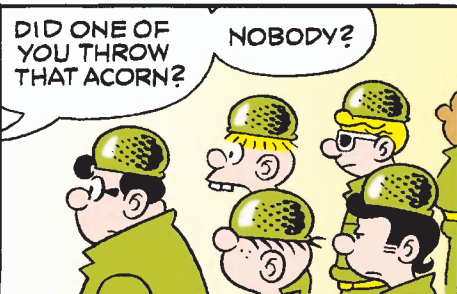


Sunday Comics

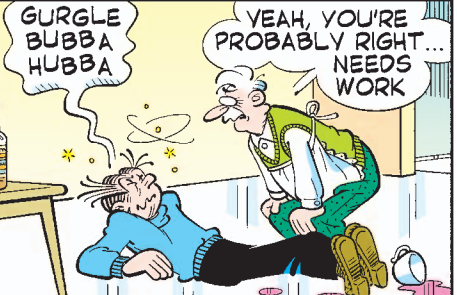
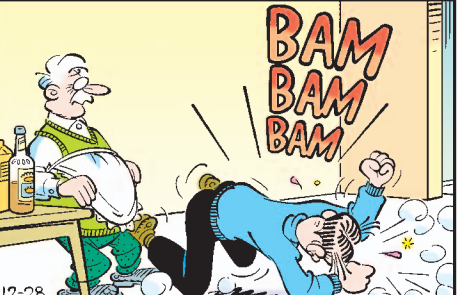
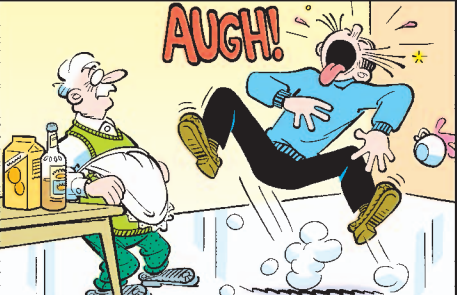
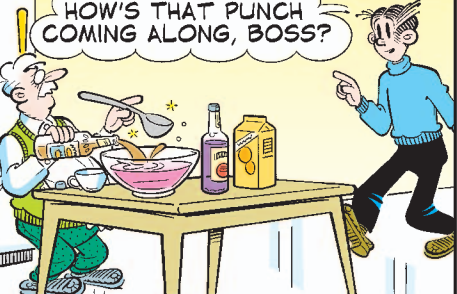
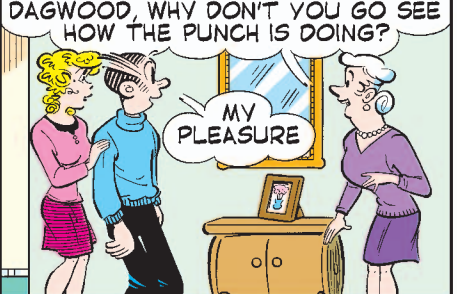
DECEMBER 28, 2014



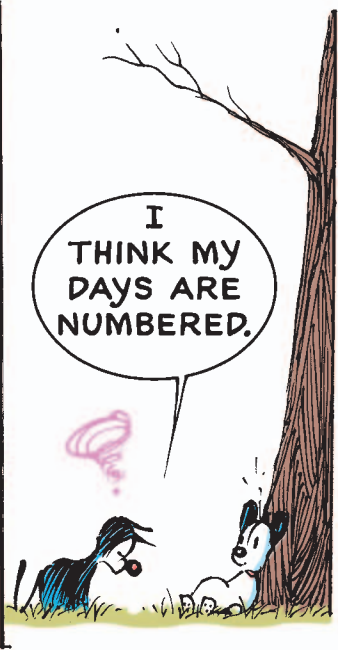
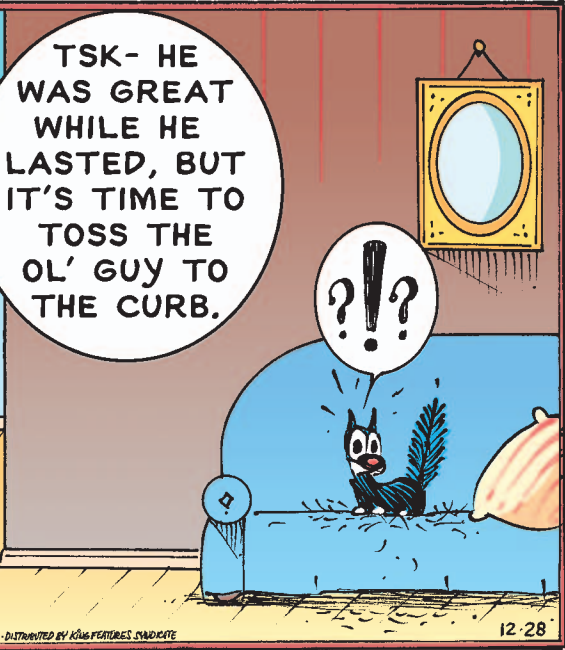
Mort Walker's
beetle bailey



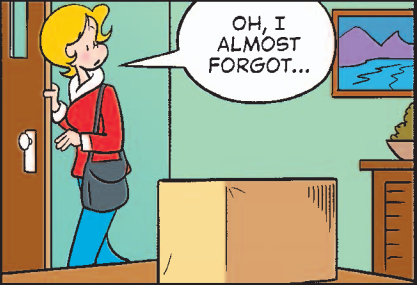
BLONDIE
BY DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL



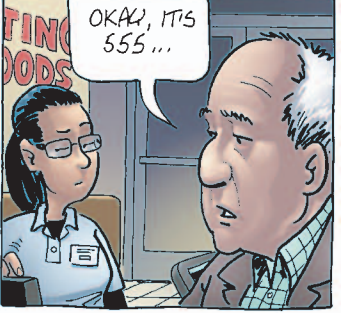
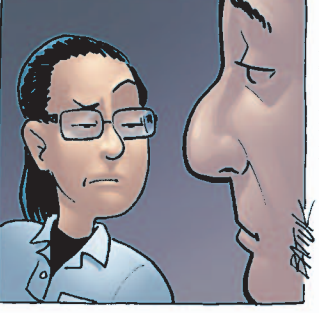
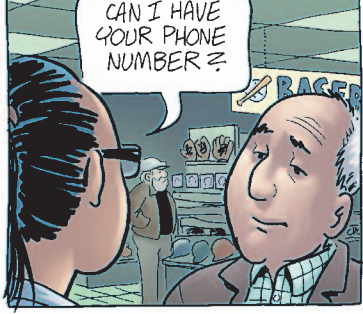
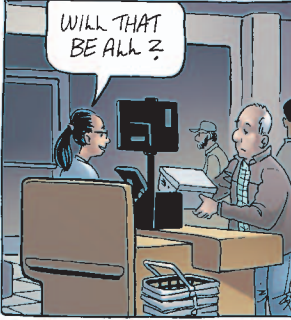
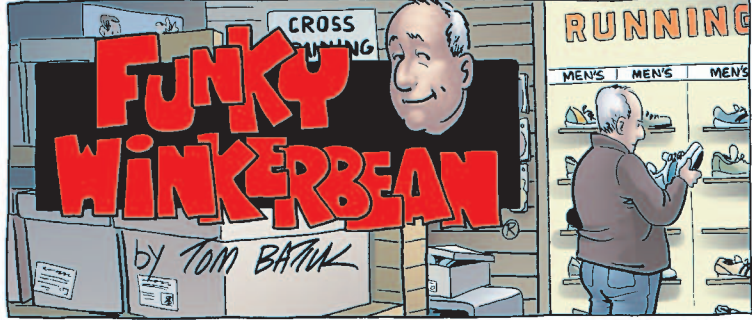
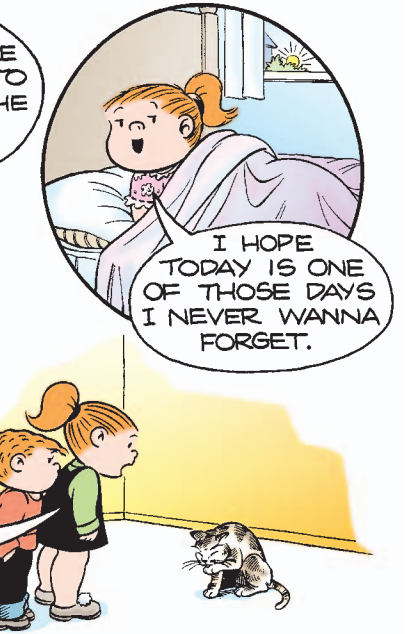
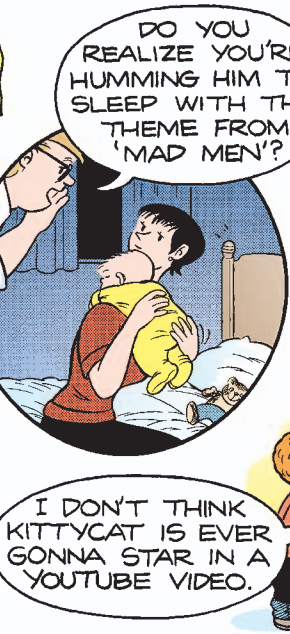
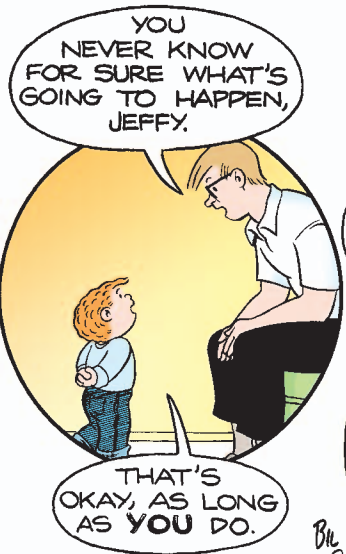
MUTTS



Hi and Lois
by BRIAN and GREG WALKER



The FAMILY CIRCUS
By BILL KEANE



HAGAR
the horrible
by DIK BROWNE

I CAN'T TELL IF THE COAST IS CLEAR

WHY NOT?

BECAUSE A WHOLE BUNCH OF HEAVILY ARMED GUYS ARE BLOCKING THE COASTAL VIEW!

THE ENEMY IS COMING OVER THE RIDGE!!

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?!

PLAY DEAD!

plop!

IT'S WORKING!

12-28

THE LOCKHORNS
BY BUNNY HOEST AND JOHN REINER

"THIS IS MY MAD MONEY... I'M TAKING IT BECAUSE I'M MAD AT YOU."

"EVER SINCE YOU PROMISED TO BE MORE HONEST, YOU'VE STOPPED CALLING ME 'THE LITTLE WOMAN.'"

"SURE, YOU CAN BORROW MY SNOW SHOVEL, HERB. IF YOU PROMISE NOT TO GIVE IT BACK."

"I DON'T USE GOOGLE... MY WIFE KNOWS EVERYTHING."

"LEROY HAS DIFFICULTY REMEMBERING PEOPLE'S NAMES BUT THEY HAVE NO TROUBLE FORGETTING HIS."

SALLY FORTH.
by Francesco Marciuliano

TED?

CAN'T STOP NOW. ON A ROLL.

...AAAAAAND DONE.

WOW, YOU ACTUALLY WROTE OUT YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS BEFORE APRIL.

HA HA. FIRST, MY USUAL HARD DEADLINE IS MARCH. AND SECOND, YOU WERE WATCHING ME, SO I HAD TO.

OKAY, READY TO SHARE?

ALL RIGHT. BUT I THINK MY LIST WOULD LOOK FAR MORE IMPRESSIVE PRINTED OUT. PERHAPS IN A NICE, CLEAN FUTURA FONT.

WHY WOULD ONE MAN HAVE TO REMIND HIMSELF SO MANY TIMES TO STAY POSITIVE ABOUT "STAR WARS: EPISODE VII"?

WHY DO MOST OF YOUR RESOLUTIONS START WITH "WE"? I DON'T REMEMBER SIGNING UP FOR ANY OF THESE.

KEEFE

12-28

ZITS
by JERRY SCOTT and JIM BORGMAN

MOM, WHERE ARE ALL OF MY BABY PICTURES?

HM...?

OH, HERE AND THERE IN VARIOUS SHOEBOXES, I GUESS.

I NEVER REALLY GOT AROUND TO ORGANIZING THEM.

HERE YOU GO.

CLICK!

AND THEN WHEN WE GOT A DIGITAL CAMERA, WE STOPPED BUYING PRINTS ALTOGETHER!

THERE IS NO PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE THAT I WAS EVER A BABY!

FORT KNOX
by Paul Jon

YOU'RE SELLING "NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS"??

THAT'S RIGHT, BETTY...

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS \$2

"MAKE THE WORLD MORE BEAUTIFUL."

THAT'S NICE.

NEW YEAR'S

YOU GIVE ME TWO BUCKS AND I'LL PROVIDE YOU WITH A PERSONALIZED RESOLUTION.

NEW YEAR'S \$2

"BY WEARING A SACK OVER YOUR HEAD."

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS \$2

WANT A FREE SAMPLE?

SURE.

YOURS IS "GET BETTER HEALTH CARE."

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS \$0

POW!!!

12/28/2014 Jon www.facebook.com/fortknoxcomic © 2012 Paul Jon, Dist. by Washington Post Writers Group

WIZARD OF ID
by PARKER and HART

SIR RODNEY VS. CLIFF THE CRUSHER

ARENA

ONE TICKET TO SEE SIR RODNEY CRUSHED

TICKETS

RODNEY!

I'VE RECRUITED SOME MOTIVATIONAL HELP FOR YOU FOR TONIGHT'S JOUST

I GIVE YOU THE SUPER FAN!

YEAHH, BABY!

GO, ID!

WE'VE GOT HIM ON A STEADY DIET OF BUDWEISER, RED BULL AND BRATWURST!

RUN HIM THROUGH!

OFFENSE! OFFENSE!

I'M AFRAID I'LL KILL ME IF I LOSE

I SAID MOTIVATION, DIDN'T I?

12/28

WIZARD OF ID.COM

PARKER.

©2014 RONIN + HART ENT.

DIST. BY CREATORS

BY
MASTROIANNI
AND HART

